

Kinnock urged to soft-pedal over defence

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

Mr Neil Kinnock is under increasing pressure from some of his most senior colleagues to tone down further his public commitments to remove American nuclear bases from Britain.

Anxiety about the electoral consequences of current policy will be voiced at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet on January 7, which was originally called by the Labour leader to rally his party and to prepare it for a general election as early as May 7.

It was planned in October when the party's fortunes were much brighter, but will now be held in the wake of a big slump in the electoral standing of Mr Kinnock and the party.

With a Labour lead of 3.5 per cent in November, they are certain that the most unpopular element of the policy is the proposal to remove all American nuclear weapons from Britain.

On December 10, Mr Kinnock declined to give a timetable for the removal of nuclear bases and said the process would be subject to "complex and thorough discussions".

His critics in the Shadow Cabinet want him to suggest

the election as more far left candidates take their places at Westminster.

Yesterday, sources close to Mr Kinnock were at pains to play down the significance of the poll, insisting that Gallup consistently underestimates the strength of support for Labour.

A shadow minister said yesterday: "One poll should not be enough for us to think about suicide." Acknowledging that defence was not Labour's strongest card, the Kinnock sources said they had anticipated a slide in the polls as a result of the leader deliberately drawing attention to an area of relative weakness.

Michael Heseltine on deterrents and the CND Page 12

that the removal will not only be "discussed" but "negotiated".

They calculate this would be a clear sign to the electorate that the Americans would not be forced to take their weapons and bases away.

Meanwhile, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, is gearing up for a new offensive aimed at making further capital out of Labour's defence difficulties.

He and other senior ministers are expected to accuse senior moderates within the Shadow Cabinet such as Mr Roy Hattersley, Mr John Cunningham and Mr John Smith of acquiescing in a policy with which they profoundly disagree for electoral reasons.

They will challenge them to end their silence and picture the Labour leadership as deeply split over the country's defence.

They will also claim that however Labour twists and turns over the issue, the argument is over because of the swing to the left within the party, a shift that will become even more pronounced after

the next task was to win greater support for the non-nuclear line, before switching attention to vote-winning areas such as unemployment and the health service.

They also discounted any public split over the issue. By the time the election is called and the Shadow Cabinet and national executive meet at the clause five meeting to settle the manifesto the ground will have been laid, it is argued, for the policy to be watered down in a way that makes clear that the bases would not be removed without the agreement of the Americans.

Meanwhile, a former Labour defence minister, Dr John Gifford, said that the latest poll made distressing reading for party members and the defence policy was obviously a contributory factor.

Sakharov vows to continue his fight

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the best-known Soviet dissident, is due to arrive here tomorrow by train, ending nearly seven years in internal exile.

The physicist—in a remarkable conversation with Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, who telephoned him the day after a KGB agent installed the previously-denied connection in the Sakharov flat, told Mr Gorbachev that he intended to continue speaking out on major human rights issues on his return.

"My conversation with Gorbachev was very complex and I would not try to summarize it in a few words. It was not all simple and it was not all direct," the 65-year-old scientist said yesterday during a radio interview. "As much as it depends on me, I intend to always say what I think because I believe that is the right thing and the necessary thing."

The apparent lack of restrictions imposed on Dr Sakharov's new-found freedom has increased the conviction among jubilant members of Moscow's dissident community that the Kremlin has undertaken a thorough review

of its policy towards human rights activists and other political opponents.

Professor Valery Solfer, a renowned biologist who has been trying to emigrate since 1979, was one of many Soviet intellectuals who yesterday cited Mr Gorbachev's unprecedented telephone call to Dr Sakharov as evidence that a new era was beginning in Soviet human rights field.

"Mr Gorbachev has decided to change his policy. Even as recently as two weeks ago, I had no basis for predicting that such a new policy would be introduced," explained the professor, who used the new telephone connection to convey his congratulations to Dr Sakharov in Gorky.

"As a result of my conversation, I had the impression that there will be no limitations on what Sakharov can say when he returns to Moscow. The Government has apparently expressed hope that he will take part in 'patriotic work'."

Continued on page 16, col 1

South gets first snow

The first widespread snow of the winter fell across most of Britain yesterday, but forecasters were doubtful if it heralded a white Christmas.

The Meteorological Office said a belt of snow moved down from Scotland bringing southern districts their first wintry weather. Steady falls were reported in many areas, with depths of several inches on northern hills.

The snow moved down

through northern counties and the Midlands on Saturday night, reaching the south-east by 10am yesterday, before moving away off the south coast. In most areas it quickly turned to sleet or slush.

The London Weather Centre said any remaining snow showers would die out by tomorrow. Rain would move in from the west.

Forecasts, page 16

Biffen appeals to Churches on Aids

By Nicholas Wood Political Reporter

Two Government ministers yesterday urged the churches to accept their responsibility for introducing a moral dimension into the national fight against the disease Aids.

The appeal, from Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, and Mr Tony Newton, Minister of State for Health, came against the background of an alarming new survey showing that the pragmatic "safe sex" approach, adopted in the £20 million public education campaign, has so far had little impact.

A sample of 864 heterosexuals aged 18 to 44, who

admitted to having multiple sexual partners in the past five years, were questioned about their attitudes to the killer virus.

Eighty per cent said they believed they were in little or no danger of contracting the disease, and 86 per cent said they had not changed their behaviour as a result of official warnings.

The survey, carried out for the *Weekend World* television programme by Harris Research Organization, was accompanied by computer projections from Imperial College, London, predicting that on these replies by the end of the century there would be 160,000 new cases of Aids a

year and a million carriers among heterosexuals.

"On the strength of the figures and interviews with sexually active young people, largely heedless of the dangers they faced," Mr Newton admitted, "the Government had 'some ground to make up' in getting its message across."

Mr Biffen said the disease was "a great shadow" looming over all of us.

"We are talking about whole patterns of behaviour which have to be adjusted and reformed and where those who seek to be the moral guardians and leaders—I mean basically the Churches—will have to make their voices known and effective in

persuading the changes that can somehow stabilize a terrifying situation," he said on BBC Radio 4.

Mr Newton's remarks appeared to be aimed at the churches when he said it was the Government's job to concentrate on the pragmatic approach while "some people" developed the moral angle.

The clergy's most recent intervention in the Aids debate came last week when the Church of England submitted a report to Parliament saying that while it supported explicit public health advertising, it regretted more emphasis was not being put on the need for chastity.

Nuclear secrets man in Israeli court

Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician accused of revealing secrets about Israel's atomic arsenal, being led into a Jerusalem court yesterday.

He was in court for a new remand hearing and is expected to be formally charged

with treason, aggravated espionage and giving top-secret information to the enemy.

Mr Vanunu disappeared from his London hotel on September 30 and it was feared he may have been kidnapped.

The Israeli citizen, who converted to Christianity, disclosed to *The Sunday Times* that Israel had stockpiled 200 nuclear warheads at its top secret Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev Desert, where he worked for 10 years.

Futures broker vetoed

By Richard Lander

LHW Futures, a controversial financial broking firm, has been turned down for membership by the new City regulatory authority which polices the futures and commodities markets.

The firm has been strongly criticized for its high-pressure selling techniques which some clients claim have cost them their savings.

The decision by the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers (AFBD) will severely limit LHW's activities.

When the new Financial Services Act takes full effect next year, futures broking firms will be breaking the law unless they belong to the AFBD or have authorization from the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog body. SIB is unlikely to authorise a firm turned down by the AFBD.

Mr Alistair Anand, chief executive of the AFBD, said he had written to the five futures exchanges belonging to the association on Friday to tell them of the decision.

He declined to say why LHW had been rejected but said the firm was likely to appeal.

LHW is the biggest private client futures broker in Europe, earning commissions of about £30 million in 1985 from 6,500 customers on contracts involving several hundred million pounds. Officials from LHW were unavailable for comment yesterday but the managing director, Mr Brian Edgeley, said recently that cold-calling—making unsolicited phone calls to prospective investors—had been stopped.

Wright's family insist he has been telling the truth

The family of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer who has exposed his secret operations, insisted in an interview with *The Times* yesterday that he has been telling the truth.

His statement came as the Government came under new pressure to mount an independent inquiry into allegations of plotting against the Wilson Labour government of the 1970s.

Mr Wright's son, Mr Bevis Wright, and two daughters, Mrs Tessa Southern and Mrs Jenny Andrews, spoke out after a report last week that their father was unreliable and lived in a fantasy world.

Yesterday Mr Bevis Wright, who runs holiday cottages in this country, contacted his two sisters—one of whom lives in Australia—before making public their support for their father's cause.

Mr Wright told said: "My father is devoted both to MI5 and to his country. The Government did not cross-examine him in the court case in New South Wales over his book, so one can only conclude that he has been truthful."

"My father believes totally in the importance of MI5 and his prime motive is to get an inquiry into the working of the security service and into its accountability."

"I think if he succeeds in that, he'll die happy. It's blatantly obvious that he's telling the truth."

Mr Wright said he was keeping in constant touch with his father, although he has not seen him for two years. He said: "He is ill but he has faith in his doctors."

There were calls for an inquiry yesterday from Lord Glenamara, the former Labour deputy leader, Mr Ted Short, who believes MI5 was behind a plot to discredit him in the 1970s.

Lord Glenamara was at the centre of a political "scandal" when a document revealed that he had opened a Swiss bank account with a deposit of about £16,000 in December 1971. But the document, photocopies of which were circulated in Fleet Street, was a forgery.

A police investigation was conducted by Scotland Yard's Serious Crimes Squad, but those responsible were not found.

Lord Glenamara said yesterday that since Mr Wright's allegations had begun to emerge during the Australian court hearing he felt there was a strong possibility that MI5

Continued on page 16, col 4

5pm deadline for Piggott bail

Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, has until late this afternoon to find what is believed to be the largest bail sum ever demanded by a British court, nearly £1 million in cash, or face re-arrest on a charge of defrauding the Inland Revenue.

Mr Piggott must hand over a banker's draft for £950,000 by 5pm to Newmarket magistrates in exchange for the deeds to his house and stables in the town, which were accepted as sureties in lieu of cash when he was arrested and charged on Friday.

Mr Norman Phillips, the Inland Revenue's prosecuting solicitor, originally asked for a cash sum of £2 million to be lodged with the court but this was reduced by the magistrates. The case has been adjourned till March 19.

Mr Piggott, who retired from riding last year to take up a career as a trainer, was not available for comment yesterday at his Newmarket home.

He was arrested on Friday morning and accused before a special court sitting of making a false tax statement about his bank accounts.

He spent several tense hours in the cells at Newmarket police station before bail could be arranged.

Mr Piggott, 11 times champion jockey and rider of a record 29 classic winners, is said to have amassed a £20 million fortune.

The investigation into his tax affairs is thought to be part of a much broader inquiry now being carried out by the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise—responsible for VAT collection.

This is looking into the finances of a number of leading owners, trainers and jockeys, and centres on the avoidance of income tax and VAT.

It is understood that 50 tax inspectors are working on the inquiry.

Double killing warning to women in city

Women in Salisbury, Wiltshire, were advised by police to be on their guard last night after the discovery of two women murdered within hours of each other over the weekend.

Miss Ruth Perrett, aged 25, was strangled in her bedroom in a hotel and a few hours later Mrs Beryl Deacon, aged 45, a market researcher, was suffocated in a toilet cubicle. Both had been sexually assaulted.

Mrs Deacon disappeared on Saturday morning after arriving from Ringwood, Hampshire. Report, page 3

Police break up student protest in Shanghai

Shanghai (Reuters) — Police broke up thousands of demonstrators outside the city hall here last night and arrested at least seven youths in the third day of unrest by students demanding more democracy.

Witnesses said that about 200 police squeezed into the crowd on the main waterfront boulevard, beside the city hall, and seized the youths after forming a moving cordon to push people away.

Mr Dai Junyi, a student leader from a Shanghai medical college, told a crowd of several hundred: "All of you should open your eyes. We are being suppressed."

"Maybe the police will come and break us up, but the Chinese people will not be slaves."

A Shanghai city government official said no one

Student demonstrators beat up 31 police and broke into municipal government offices, the official New China News Agency quoted a city government spokesman as saying.

The students, supported by groups of workers, had gathered outside the city hall to express discontent with the response of Mayor Jiang Zemin to a list of demands their leaders had presented him with at a late night meeting on Friday.

They said Mr Jiang had rejected pleas for greater democracy and press freedom, although he conceded a request to label their protest action as legal and to guarantee their safety.

The students maintained the mayor had broken his word, citing what they reckoned to be 200 arrests and the beating up by police of about 12 people at the weekend.

The Shanghai student protests are the biggest in a chain of student demonstrations that has affected campuses in more than 12 cities in the last few weeks.

Earlier in the evening, 20,000 chanting students and their supporters gathered with flags in the People's Park, half an hour's walk from the city hall, and some said that they would stay all night to press their demands for democracy.

Background Leading article 6 13

had been arrested and no one would be, because the marches were legal.

"But students would be breaking the law if they tried to stop traffic," he said.

Students said they were also demanding that Mr Jiang make a public apology and compensate those allegedly beaten up.

Shanghai newspapers have made no mention of the student unrest of the last few days.

A Japanese journalist based here said he saw about 200 students from Tongji and Communications universities arrested on Saturday morning and taken away in police vans as thousands of students massed near the People's Square.

The Shanghai marches, which began on Thursday, have been the most daring display of student protest in this month's wave of unrest in universities across China.

The demonstrations, from Xian in the north to Kunming in the south-west, have all turned into rallies calling for democratic reform, although many began as expressions of dissatisfaction on trivial issues such as the quality of college food.

Pay rises at lowest level for a decade

By Our City Staff

Wage rises in Britain's manufacturing industry have fallen to their lowest level for a decade, according to figures from the Confederation of British Industry today.

The CBI's data bank on pay shows an average increase of 4.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year. This compares with 5.6 per cent in the third quarter and 6.1 per cent in the first two quarters of 1986.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director general, said: "While average earnings are continuing to run at rather higher levels, reflecting in part the pick-up in the economy, these much lower figures for basic pay settlements do suggest that at last we may be moving in the right direction."

Nearly one in 10 of the 80

pay settlements included in the survey were for rises of less than 2.5 per cent.

Further good news for the Government came at the weekend when oil ministers from 12 of the 13 Opec countries agreed to cut production by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day and to return to a fixed price system based on \$18 (£12.56) a barrel.

Despite the refusal by Iraq to abide by its quota, industry analysts expect oil prices to firm by around \$1 a barrel this week.

Iraq has dissociated itself from the agreement, rejecting a quota far lower than its actual production and below the level given to Iran.

Wage rises Page 19

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Drugs claim was an error

The future of Tim Winterspoon, the depressed housewife who turned to drugs, was the subject of a story in the *Times* on December 15. The story was based on a report by Jose Torres, a member of the New York State Athletic Commission, who had been made a source of information in the case. Winterspoon had been reported to have taken a large quantity of drugs in his system. The story was based on a report by Jose Torres, a member of the New York State Athletic Commission, who had been made a source of information in the case. Winterspoon had been reported to have taken a large quantity of drugs in his system.

result of the new rules said there will be no more of this kind of thing. The rules will be in force from January 1 and will no longer allow any risk of a person losing his

the biggest upset was when James Smith at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado, who had been the original favourite, was beaten by the underdog, the American, who was the favourite.

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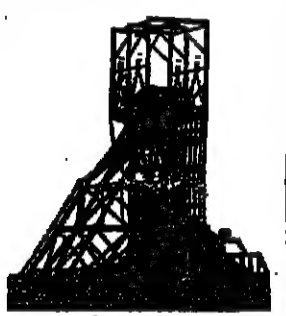
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Tomorrow

The gold seam...



A visit to the Welsh town where the end of coal mining meant the beginning of "redundo" wealth — not to mention the bitterness that attends keeping up with the Joneses and the Thomases.

Portfolio Gold

● The weekly prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition — £24,000 because there were no winners the previous two weeks — was shared on Saturday by five readers. Three readers shared the £4,000 daily prize. Details page 3

● There is £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 20; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

TIMES SPORT

Hodge moves

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday agreed to buy Steve Hodge, the England midfielder player from Aston Villa for £650,000 hours after selling Graham Roberts to Rangers for £450,000. Page 28

Leeds lose 7-2

Leeds United, weakened by suspensions, were beaten 7-2 by Stoke City in the second division. Nicky Morgan scoring three goals. Page 28

TIMES BUSINESS

Reagan's plan

President Reagan is planning legislation to restore American leadership in international economics. Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, revealed in an interview with *The Times* Page 17

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مكتبة الادب

Double murder hunt as women are found a mile apart

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Detectives in Wiltshire were last night investigating the murders of two women killed within hours of each other in the cathedral city of Salisbury during the weekend.

Last night detectives led by Det Chief Supt Joseph Ralls, head of Wiltshire CID, were working on the cases. The murders took place within a mile of each other.

The first murder took place early on Saturday morning in a first floor bedroom at Herbert House, a half-way hostel for people recovering from mental illness.

The dead woman, Miss Ruth Perrett, aged 25, had been at party with 13 other residents, staff and former patients. There were 30 to 40 guests at the party which finished about midnight.

Miss Perrett went up to her room and was found naked and dead in bed next morning. The door to her bedroom was locked and the window was open.

Yesterday police could not

say if the door had been locked from inside because there was no sign of a key. The dead woman had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

There was no sign of burglary, but there were signs of a struggle. Detectives were yesterday interviewing people at the party or living in the hostel.

The party was attended by 12 other residents, 22 former residents and five staff were on duty. Miss Perrett went to the hostel after receiving treatment at the adjoining Old Manor Psychiatric Hospital.

She worked one day a week in an Oxford shop and had been receiving treatment for eight months. Mr Ralls said: "Clearly there is at least one person at large in the community who is a danger to the public, women in particular, and the sooner he is caught the better."

The second body was found early yesterday by two patrolling policemen. As Salisbury police began investigating the

first murder, they were alerted by officers at Ringwood, near Southampton, Hampshire, to be on the lookout for a white Ford Escort belonging to Mrs Beryl Deacon, aged 45.

The woman, a market researcher, was due to keep an appointment in Salisbury at 10am on Saturday, but did not arrive. The two police found her car in a car park and then checked a lavatory block at Churchill gardens near by, a local council park.

Her body was found on the floor inside a locked cubicle. The body was clothed and yesterday police said she is thought to have died at about 10am on Saturday from suffocation after an attack in which her head was injured. She had been sexually assaulted.

Yesterday a spokesman for Wiltshire police denied the two murders were being linked to another killing in Hampshire when a barmaid was strangled.

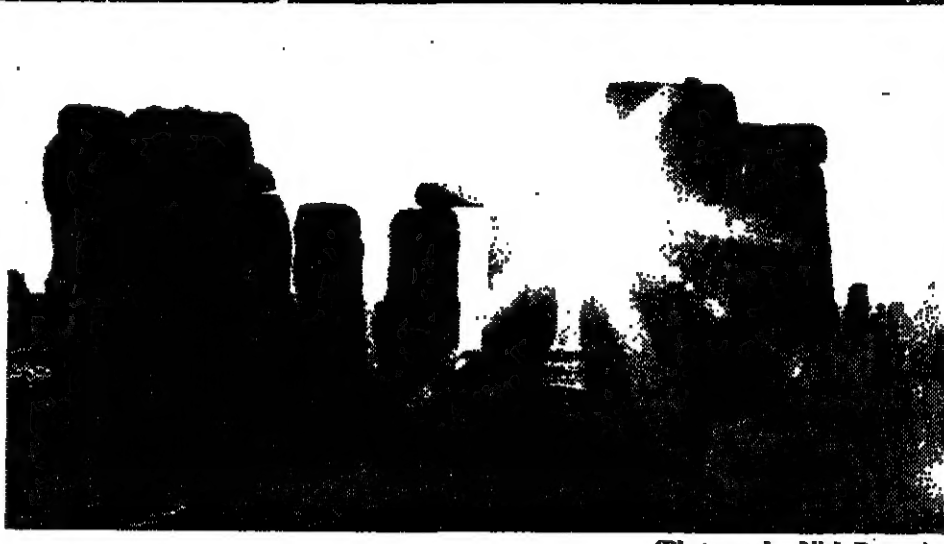
Druids see in an ancient new year



More than 200 people gathered at Stonehenge in sub-zero temperatures yesterday to watch the winter solstice sunrise, while chanting Druids celebrated the beginning of their new year.

Wiltshire police stood by at the 4,300-year-old monument on Salisbury Plain but made no arrests.

English Heritage, custodians of the stones (right), had given special permission for the celebrants, some of whom are shown above, to be admitted to the inner circle. Groups of hippies chanted and held hands as the sun rose in a cloudless sky and the Secular Order of Druids observed their rituals within the henge.



(Photographs: Nick Rogers)

Hurd is pressed to review moors hunt

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

A review of the moors murders case may be undertaken by a senior officer from another force to determine whether the renewed search by Greater Manchester police for more bodies should be abandoned.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is under increasing pressure to order the independent review to be carried out immediately, now the search of snow-blanketed Saddleworth Moor has been suspended until spring.

The official who is likely to undertake the reappraisal is Mr Colin Sampson, West Yorkshire chief constable, who this year took over the sensitive investigation into the alleged Royal Ulster Constabulary "shoot to kill" policy from Mr John Stalker and then led an inquiry into allegations that Mr Stalker, Greater Manchester's deputy chief constable, brought the force into disrepute.

Senior Home Office officials have privately expressed disquiet over the renewed search for more young victims believed buried on the moor by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, arguing that no new evidence has emerged to justify the operation.

Permission for Hindley's 24-hour release from Cookham Wood jail in Kent to revisit the area she frequented with her former lover was delayed for more than a month because of ministers'

doubts about the value of the costly and potentially dangerous journey.

Many politicians too believe a new investigation is a pointless press pantomime which can bring only further anguish to the parents of the two missing children.

Mr Alex Carlile, Liberal home affairs spokesman, yesterday called for the search to be abandoned and the moors murders file closed unless a senior officer from another police force and the Home Secretary together agreed that enough new facts had emerged to justify its continuation.

Mr Carlile said many constituents and fellow MPs regarded the search as ghoulish, over-dramatised and almost indecent. Last week he evoked an angry response from Chief Supt Peter Topping, head of Greater Manchester CID, by describing the inquiry as a gruesome charade.

Mr Topping spoke heatedly about MPs he accused of eagerly jumping on to a media bandwagon and criticising an operation about which they knew few of the facts.

Mr Carlile said: "Senior Home Office officials have spoken to me repeatedly about the intense anxiety concerning the new investigation. There is an ever increasing body of opinion that it should end now."

Bernard Levin, page 12

Fears over BR budget cut threat

A damning indictment of British Rail has been prepared by transport watchdogs calling on the Government to defer its deadline for trimming the board's state subsidy.

The report from the Central Transport Consultative Committee claims that reduced staffing levels have prompted women to stop using a third of BR stations for fear of attacks.

It calls for ministers to reconsider the deadline for proposals to reduce BR's budget by £157 million within three years, saying that further staff cutbacks will exacerbate the problem.

Secretary for the committee, Mr Len Duncanson, said: "There is evidence that in rural areas cutbacks on staffing have opened up the opportunity for assaults, vandalism and hooliganism."

"If trains are late or even cancelled passengers may have some time to wait at a station which is not manned and they have to be protected."

The report comes two weeks before the introduction of fare increases averaging between 5 and 6 per cent.

British Rail faces a reduction of subsidy under the proposals from £712 million to £555 million by 1989. But a spokesman for British Rail strongly refuted the allegation that women were frightened to use unmanned stations.

Christmas travel, page 5

Guidelines to alter in child cases

By Sheila Guna Political Staff

The investigation and conduct of child abuse cases is to be improved by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

He has ordered an urgent study of police methods in handling the victims of child abuse which will lead to a circular next year, laying down new guidelines to chief police officers.

Mr Hurd said it would be similar to the two circulars issued on rape, covering the investigation of offences and treatment of victims.

This is part of a package of measures the Home Secretary has announced for better protection for children which, he said, must be a top government priority.

These include checks on newly-recruited staff and volunteers in contact with children in education, social and probation services.

Mr Hurd promised that where a compelling case can be made out for other jobs involving access to children to be checked, he would consider it sympathetically.

He also said, in a Commons written reply: "Those sentenced to life imprisonment for the sexual or sadistic murder of children must normally expect to remain in custody for at least 20 years."

"Those sentenced to more than five years for physical or sexual abuse of children will be granted parole only... in circumstances which are generally exceptional."

The Home Office is preparing circulars on the treatment of children in long-term hospital care and also on staff employed in independent schools.

A project is under way by the Metropolitan Police and Bexley social services department, using dolls as interview aids to help children explain what has been done to them in cases of abuse.

Mr Hurd said that encouraging greater reporting of cases of abuse was a step forward, as shown by the response to the recent Child Watch programme.

Letters, page 13

Record takings as shops ignore law

Shops and stores which defied Sunday trading laws by opening yesterday reported record takings for a pre-Christmas Sunday.

Those which opened in areas where local authorities have banned Sunday trading were mainly do-it-yourself, furniture and garden stores.

In London, Greenford and Southall were busiest, with MFI, W H Smith's Do It All, B & Q and garden centres doing brisk business.

"Trade has never been better, all the big D I Ys and garden centres around here are open today, as well as hundreds of small shops in Southall", the Greenford B & Q said.

Do It All in Edgware Road, London, said Christmas trees were their most popular item.

"All the competition around here has opened - Homebase, Texas, Payless and B & Q. I don't think the local council approve, but business is great," the deputy manager, Mr Jeremy Hugo, said.

Some stores were deterred by council disapproval. Texas Homecare in Hayes, north London, was forced to close its doors yesterday after a High Court injunction.

Two branches of Woolworth found a way round the problem. The Islington and Kilburn branches satisfy their local authority rules that shops may not open seven days a week. They open on Sundays but close on Mondays.

Some who opened yesterday were reluctant to divulge any details. Halfords in Wood Green, north London, would only admit that no other stores were open in the area.

Great Mills D I Y in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, were open but would not say if any others in the group were.

Many stores said they were forbidden to talk to anyone about Sunday trading.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of Sort Out Sunday, a campaign to rationalise Sunday trading, said the Sunday trading law was a nonsense.

"The law is out of touch with public opinion, the case for deregulation is very strong. It's ridiculous that you can buy pornography on a Sunday but not a Bible. This matter is bringing the law itself into disrepute."

Cash-back claim over TV ban

By Jonathan Miller Media Correspondent

A BBC television drama about the road transport business will not be televised pending an investigation into the funding of the programme.

The programme, *Night Moves*, was abruptly cancelled on Friday night after the BBC received allegations that up to £75,000 of programme finance had been supplied by the road transport industry.

Company sponsors are demanding the return of £45,000, representing the first two of three instalments they agreed to make towards the programme.

A BBC spokeswoman said yesterday that the drama would not be shown "until we are totally clear about the relationship between the suppliers of some of the trucks and the source of the co-production finance brought in by the independent production company."

Mr Jeff Perks, a director of the independent producers, Riverfront Pictures of Wapping, east London, said yesterday he was consulting his lawyers and would have no comment.

The decision to cancel the broadcast was taken by BBC executives because of fears that the financial arrangements for the programme may have violated the BBC's constitution, which prohibits the televising of sponsored shows.

Money to make the programme was contributed by Volvo Trucks, Petrofina, Bandag Tyres, the Road Haulage Association, TNT Transport, Wincanton Transport, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the trade magazine *Commercial Motor*.

The BBC has delayed the transmission of a six-part television series called *The Secret Society* presented by the left-wing journalist, Mr Duncan Campbell.

The BBC had intended to televise the series on BBC 2 starting next month. But the transmission was cancelled and no new date for broadcast has been set.

Pressure on the BBC to withdraw the series is being applied by the Freedom of Information Association, which is chaired by Mr Morris McWhirter and which counts among its supporters the Conservative MP, Mr Winston Churchill.

A BBC spokesman yesterday said editing of the series would be complete in about two weeks.

The spokesman defended the impartiality of the series, which is understood to take a critical look at the Emergency Powers Act, the accountability of the intelligence services, the use and abuse of data banks, the Cabinet committee system and the techniques used to protect atomic power stations and defence installations.

Portfolio Gold—Five share Christmas surprise

Five readers shared the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £24,000, each receiving £4,800.

Mrs Caroline Pahnke, aged 30, a teacher, of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, plans to use her winnings for home improvements. "My first thought was that I could do with a new kitchen," she said. "And with one son aged 18 months, and another baby due in April, the bedrooms could be in for a facelift too."

Mrs Pahnke has been a reader of *The Times* for five years and has played Portfolio Gold since the game started. "Winning was a lovely Christmas surprise," she added.

Another teacher, Mrs Dorry Glocking, of Oxford, plans to use her prize money to help her children. "I have four children, two of them at college in London, which is expensive, so the money will go towards the family."

Mrs Glocking has been a reader of *The Times* for nearly three years, and has also been playing Portfolio Gold since the game started. She checks her numbers during her daily journey into central London, where she teaches at an independent school.

The other weekly winners were: Miss Elizabeth Porter, of Sarratt, near Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire; Mr Vijay Joshi, of Lower Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire; and Mr Andrew Heffernan, of Folkestone, Kent. Saturday's draw reached £24,000 as there had been no winners for the previous two weeks.

Three readers shared Saturday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, each receiving £1,333.

Lieutenant Colonel John Watson, aged 64, of Cobham, Surrey, plans to use some of his prize towards a trip to Papua New Guinea, where he will visit his son. The Lieutenant Colonel, who is retired, is a regular reader of *The Times* and has been playing Portfolio Gold since the game started.

Mr Adam Leigold, aged 29, a plant engineer, of Northwich, Cheshire, plans to spend some of his winnings on seasonal celebrations. "It's very useful just before Christmas," he said.

Mrs Dorry Glocking, devoting her win to her children.

Christmas," he said. "It will help cancel out some of the debt!" He has been a reader of *The Times* for four years.

Mr Harry Godwin, aged 36, a civil engineer from Lancaster, Cornwall, said his family would benefit from his win. The Godwin family, regular readers of *The Times* for 20 years, play the Portfolio Gold game together. Mr Godwin's parents, his sister and his aunt will share the prize money. "It was very good news just before Christmas," he said.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, c/o BDO, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Six held over death at match

Six men will appear before magistrates in Scarborough today to face charges in connection with the sudden death of Mr Barry Adamson, chairman of the town's football club.

Police last night refused to say what charges the six will face but said they were not Leeds United supporters as had been reported earlier.

A post-mortem examination of Mr Adamson was carried out yesterday by Dr Michael Green, a Home Office pathologist, and an inquest will open this morning.

Mr Adamson, aged 47, a clerk at the Department of Health and Social Security, who weighed 20 stone, was involved in an incident as he and Mr Don Robinson, his predecessor at Scarborough, and now chairman of Hull City, went to reason with rowdy supporters in an almost empty corner of the stadium.

Police were busy dealing with a group who had tried to force their way in at the main gates without paying and it was several minutes before they could take effective action.

At half-time in the match which Scarborough won 1-0, the police started to take statements and as Mr Adamson was assisting he collapsed and was dead on arrival at Scarborough Hospital.

Yesterday police were trying to piece together the sequence of events which led to the death at the usually peaceful ground.

Mr Robinson said: "I am shattered by this and I shall never try to deal with a crowd again. Everything was so friendly and then it all went wrong."

Mr Adamson leaves a wife, Betty, and a teenage son, Andrew, who were both on duty at the ground. Mrs Adamson is in the club shop and her son selling programmes.

Police defend informer in Gandhi conspiracy

By Craig Seton

Senior detectives have defended their undercover operation to smash the plot by two Sikhs who were jailed for conspiring to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister.

Jarnail Ranuana, aged 46, a company director and Sukvinder Gill, aged 30, a dyer, both of Leicester, were sentenced to 16 years and 14 years imprisonment respectively at Birmingham Crown Court on Saturday.

They were found guilty of conspiracy to murder Mr Gandhi, and soliciting two undercover policemen, who pretended to be IRA gunmen, to kill him during his official visit to Britain 15 months ago.

Ranuana was additionally convicted of possessing a .38 revolver and supplying heroin. A third man, Parmatma Marwaha, aged 43, a jeans factory owner, also of Leicester, was acquitted and released.

Mr Justice McCullough said: "You have brought dishonour on the Sikh population in the United Kingdom."

Ranuana and Gill shouted: "Long live Khalistan" - a reference to Sikh demands for an independent Sikh state in India - as they were sentenced and afterwards 200 Sikh supporters blocked a road outside the court for four hours.

Leicestershire police said that the use of two undercover policemen acting as IRA killers for hire and an underworld informer who tipped police off about the Sikh plot had been proper.

Defence counsel had accused the undercover policemen of acting as agents provocateurs in a plot set up by the police informer, known only as John. The informer has now, with the help of police, gone into hiding.

Det Insp Albert Shevas, head of the Leicestershire drug squad, said of the police informer: "We owe him a debt of gratitude. Whatever people say about him he put himself and his family at risk and he gave evidence twice, when he was severely attacked."

"Without people like him coming forward, we would not be able to act."

Parmatma Marwaha, the released Sikh, said of the case: "If there was any conspiracy, it was a conspiracy between the British and Indian governments."

Optimism over annual drink-drive campaign

By a Staff Reporter

This year's seasonal campaign against drinking and driving has been "well received", the Department of Transport said yesterday, on the eve of the key period for testing its success.

The department and the police have this year tried to widen the campaign to cover not only the Christmas and New Year period but the year as a whole. The £600,000 campaign hinges on slogans such as: "If you drink and drive you're a menace to society."

The first test of the department's optimism is expected today, when a number of big police forces are likely to issue their first figures.

Already a note of pessimism has been struck in Sussex, where the head of the force's accident prevention unit said: "Figures reveal a total disregard by some drivers for their own and other people's safety." Chief Insp Rod Winter said too many motorists were ignoring the present campaign.

In the past two weeks, Sussex police have arrested 144 motorists for being over the legal alcohol limit. They are to issue more figures today.

Many forces, including the Metropolitan Police, have this year abandoned mounting extra patrols against drunk drivers in line with the new general campaign.

Blackpool comes clean over polluted beaches

The twenty-year push to improve the quality of British bathing waters has taken a big step forward with the start of preliminary testing at Blackpool's often criticized beach.

The North West Water Authority is to spend £1.5 million on an extensive research programme into local tides and currents.

The move is aimed at helping choose a sewage disposal scheme which will eliminate problems caused by excessive bacteria content in the water.

The research, which involves sophisticated water monitoring through radar surveys and mathematical models, and periodic sampling of the

beach, is part of a multimillion pound, national clean-up of beaches.

The Victorian legacy of short outfall pipes, which gush untreated sewage into the sea only yards offshore, is still apparent at some of the most famous bathing spots, including Blackpool, Scarborough in north Yorkshire, St Ives and Penzance in Cornwall, and Great Yarmouth in Norfolk.

Water authorities throughout the country are investing a total of £280 million in an ambitious plan to modernize the most ineffective of Britain's 400 sea sewage-outfalls.

Locally discharged, untreated sewage is the source of

bacteriological contamination which can cause ear, nose and throat infections, upset stomachs and skin rashes to swimmers.

The solution is to install new onshore sewage treatment plants, or pump the effluent further out to sea through much longer coastal outfall pipes, or both.

The cost is immense and as no government funding is available, water authorities have to negotiate special loans or raise the money through increases in charges.

For some authorities, the combination of a large coastline, a small winter population and a large influx of tourists in

summer presents a serious problem.

The South West Water Authority, which covers popular summer destinations, including Devon and Cornwall, some of Somerset and Lyme Regis in Dorset, has just monitored 92 beaches, of which 25 failed to meet the EEC standard for water cleanliness.

Monitoring is to continue on another 92 beaches next summer and a £30 million capital works programme is under way to tackle the worst places, but the authority estimates it would need to spend £200 million to meet the Government's stated aim of having 350 beaches around

Britain comply with EEC standards for bathing.

Notoriously polluted beaches can still be found in each of the 10 water authority districts in England and Wales, according to Mr Tony Wakefield, director and founder of the Coastal Anti-Pollution League.

Mr Wakefield, who started the league in 1958 after his daughter contracted polio from swimming in sewage-ridden water, said: "Water authorities are finally taking the problem seriously. They've had to. We've given them awful publicity and so has the EEC. Between us, we've shamed them into action."

Advice service for patients on blacklist

A counselling service to try to maintain good relations between doctors and patients is to be tried out in Wales in response to increasing evidence of a breakdown in communications.

The West Glamorgan Community Health Council, alarmed by the growing incidence of doctors refusing to treat patients, is to set up a counselling service to help people whose general practitioners no longer wish to see them.

Community health officers believe the counselling is necessary to help patients get over the shock of being refused treatment. But they also hope that the new service may prevent doctors from resorting to such drastic action.

Doctors can refuse to see patients without giving any reason, but there is always a hard core, such as the patient in Wales who regularly directs traffic in the nude, whose behaviour doctors find unacceptable. Straightforward personality clashes and increased tensions between the surgery and the waiting room also take their toll.

In West Glamorgan last year, of the 316 patients refused treatment by GPs, 67 had difficulty getting accepted by another practice.

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Home Office fails to curb release of psychopaths

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Home Office ministers have lost their battle to impose tighter controls on the powers of mental health tribunals to release psychopaths from hospitals.

In spite of concern about four recent cases where psychopathic offenders who had been sent to special hospitals were released and committed similar offences, the law is not to be changed and tribunals will continue to be able to release such offenders on medical grounds.

The decision represents a victory for Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who was against the Mental Health Act being amended so soon after its 1983 introduction.

He argued that the proposals would not necessarily lead to greater protection for the public.

A joint Home Office and Department of Health and Social Security working party recommended tighter controls in a consultation document published in August.

It was compiled after anxiety concerning a case in which a tribunal overruled the wishes of the Home Secretary and discharged a psychopath detained for the manslaughter of a girl aged 12.

On his release James Kay committed two serious assaults on women and is now serving a six-years sentence.

Kay was discharged from Park Lane special hospital, near Liverpool, by a mental

health tribunal in spite of Home Office objections.

In July, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, who was a keen advocate of a change in the law, said that between September 1983 and the end of last year 38 patients had been discharged by tribunals, and four were known to have committed similar subsequent serious offences.

The consultation paper proposed a change in section 37 of the Mental Health Act to enable courts to send an offender requiring treatment direct to a hospital; the offender would spend a specified minimum period either in hospital or after hospital treatment, in prison.

Since a judgement by the European Court of Human Rights in 1981, doctors on tribunals have been empowered to release offenders, even if there are fears in the Home Office that the public may be at risk.

But in a Commons written reply, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said: "We have decided not to proceed with an amendment to the Mental Health Act."

No reasons were given, but Home Office sources said later that the weight of opinion in the consultation exercise had been against change, that only small numbers of cases were involved, and that the 1983 Act, debated at length, had been in operation for only a short time.



Workmen prepare to lift part of the medieval bridge from a site in Kingston upon Thames (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Medieval bridge put in movable plaster cast

By Pearce Wright

A special technique was developed to preserve the remains of a medieval bridge so that it could be moved and put into storage for two years. The foundations and the undercroft, or supporting bolt, once carried an ancient wooden bridge believed to date from the twelfth century.

The ancient remains were uncovered at Kingston upon Thames, London, during archaeological investigations before the development of a site for the John Lewis stores group. It took 12 weeks to prepare for removal.

The method was devised by Fynford South, a group of specialist structural engineers, and involved scraping the earth from beneath the structures to put steel supports underneath in preparation for reinforced concrete underpinning.

The undercroft was fitted with supporting struts and coated with epoxy resin to protect it during the lift and its journey on a 48-wheel trailer. For further protection, it was covered with hessian and plaster that can be easily removed.

The intention is to return the bridge to the site when development is complete.

Teacher who betrayed Bamber may lose job

By Michael Horsnell

Miss Julie Mugford, who betrayed Jeremy Bamber to the police, may have to give up her career as a teacher only a week after receiving her education degree from Princess Anne.

During the trial for murder of her former boy friend in October Miss Mugford, aged 22, admitted that she had smoked cannabis with him, accompanied him on a burglary, and been involved in cashing worthless cheques in London.

She has since been under suspension from the south London primary school where she taught. She faces a disciplinary hearing.

Miss Mugford said yesterday: "A lot of what I have done many other teachers have done."

Miss Mugford told Chelmsford Crown Court that Bamber, aged 25, had plotted for months to murder his family to inherit nearly £500,000 from his parents.

He was given five life sentences for shooting dead his adoptive parents, Nevill and June Bamber, his sister, Sheila, and her twin sons, aged six, at the family home at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex.

Farming surpluses: 1 Forest planting a possible curb on food mountains

As the EEC struggles to contain farm surpluses, forestry is attracting increasing attention as an economically and environmentally beneficial alternative land use. In the first of three articles, John Young, Agriculture correspondent, outlines the issues.

On the wall of the office of Professor Colin Spedding, director for the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, are a number of maps of land use in Europe.

The most immediately striking feature is the relatively tiny area of Britain under forestry compared with the great swathes of green covering much of the Continent.

Woods and forests occupy only 10 per cent of our total land; among the developed countries of the northern hemisphere only Ireland and The Netherlands have fewer trees. In France the proportion is 27 per cent, in West Germany 30 per cent, Spain 31 per cent and Finland 76 per cent.

Nowadays it is easy to forget that just as farming was left to founder, so the woodlands, stripped to supply the needs of war and industrial revolution, were not adequately replaced.

Although there have been considerable, and frequently controversial, replanting during the past 20 years, we still import more than 90 per cent of our timber and timber products, at a cost to the balance of payments last year of more than £4,500 million.

The forecasts are that timber will become scarcer and more expensive. The producing countries are also likely to switch to exporting the more valuable finished product.

A second very important reason for planting more trees is the general acceptance of the need to take a certain amount of land out of agriculture to reduce surpluses.

Practically every investigation of alternative land uses has concluded that forestry and farm woodlands make the most sense economically and offer the only means of utilizing unwanted farmland on the scale required.

The Dutch, who have probably the most intensive agricultural structure in the world have come to much the same conclusion.

The obvious difficulty is that forestry provides no financial reward for a dauntingly long period. Apart from marginal returns from coppicing, it is likely to be 60 years or so before conifers become marketable and as much as 150 years before hardwoods reach maturity, although Britain has one of the most favourable climates in the world for growing timber.

There are numerous, and frequently generous, grants and tax concessions for tree planting. But these are aimed primarily at large landowners.

Compensating farmers for income lost by not growing arable crops or keeping livestock is a different matter. However the National Farmers' Union has calculated that a realistic annual payment for woodland planting and maintenance would be cheaper than continuing to subsidize surpluses.

Tomorrow: Arguments against

Christmas travel

Extra trains and coaches laid on

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Hundreds of extra coaches and trains will be running from today until Christmas Eve as transport operators try to cope with three of the busiest travelling days of the year.

British Rail will operate 150 extra Inter-City services and National Express, the long distance arm of the National Bus Company, will have 1,500 coaches on the roads.

Outline of main services:

British Rail

- December 22 and 23: Normal weekday service with extra trains to some destinations.
- Christmas Eve: Normal Wednesday service, with extra services early in the day, and some evening commuter trains cancelled. The system will close by 10pm, with most trains starting their last journeys before then.
- Christmas Day and Boxing Day: No services.
- December 27: Normal Saturday service, although most early morning trains will not run.
- December 28: Normal Sunday service.
- December 29 and 30: Normal weekday service but with reduced commuter services.
- December 31: Normal Wednesday service in Scotland

but with last trains generally running before 10pm. No overnight trains except for Irish boat trains to and from Holyhead.

● New Year's Day: No services in Scotland. Inter-City trains will not run north of Carlisle or Newcastle. No local services in north-east England. Most Network SouthEast services will operate to a Sunday timetable.

London bus and Underground

There will be no bus or Underground services in London on Christmas Day, apart from the A1 Airbus to Heathrow. There will be special services on Boxing Day for buses and Underground. On December 29, 30, 31 and January 2, most bus services will run to Saturday timetables. Buses and Underground will run to Sunday timetables on New Year's Day.

On New Year's Eve, travel on London buses and the Underground will be free after 11.45pm.

National Express

The National Bus Company, including its long distance arm, will operate very few services on Christmas Day, although there will be some services to hospitals. There will be services from London to many large cities on Boxing Day.

RAC is to list barrier priorities

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Royal Automobile Club is to supply the Department of Transport with a list of dual carriageway trunk roads which it regards as being of top priority for the installation of central crash barriers.

This comes after an announcement by Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic, that in future the barriers would be installed on most such roads. The barriers, designed to prevent vehicles crossing from one carriageway to the other, are installed on most motorways, but only exceptionally on trunk roads.

Major roadworks until Monday, January 5:

Most roadworks have been either completed or suspended for the Christmas and new year period.

London and South-east

A3 Putney: Night time turning restrictions at junction with A306, Roehampton Lane. One week from today.

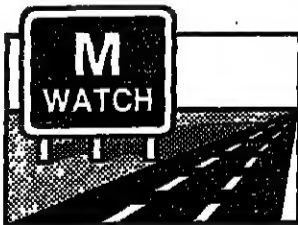
M11 London: Major roadworks at Redbridge roundabout at junctions 5 and 7 (Sittingbourne and Faversham). Until end of December.

M20 Kent: Contraflow between junctions 7 and 8 (Maidstone). Till December 31.

M27 Hampshire: Contraflow near Southampton between junctions 2 and 3 (A31 and M27). No westbound exit at junction 2 and no westbound entry at junction 3 from M27.

Midlands

M5 West Midlands: Two lanes both ways between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich and Worcester) and some lane closures



between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove and M6).

M50 Hereford and Worcester: Contraflow east of junction 4 (A449 Ross-on-Wye).

M54 West Midlands: Various lane closures between junctions 2 and 7 (A449 Wolverhampton and A5 Wellington).

North

M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Slip road closures at junctions 31 and 32 (M18 Interchange).

M6 Lancashire: Roadworks at junction 23 (Merseyside) until end of December. Contraflow between junctions 29 and 32 (A6 Preston and M55 interchange).

M63 Greater Manchester: Lane closures between junctions 1 and 7 (M62 and A57), avoid if possible.

M63 Greater Manchester: Link road from A34, junction 10, to M63 northbound, carriageway reduced to single lane only for bridge painting.

Wales and the West

M5 A-on and Somerset: Lane closures both ways between junctions 26 and 27 (Wellington and Tiverton). Finishes tomorrow.

Scotland

M8 Glasgow: Construction work between junctions 15 and 17 (city centre and Dumbarton). A74 Lanarkshire: Contraflow south of Abington.

A82 Dumfriesshire: Major roadworks south of Ardlui. Delays likely.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch.

Other roadworks, page 16.

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Bush says Iran arms scandal hurt his chance for presidency

Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States Vice-President, Mr George Bush, has acknowledged that the Iranian arms controversy has cost him his lead in the race for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination. He said he shared the blame for the scandal.

A new opinion poll shows that his popularity has fallen substantially, leaving him with only a marginal lead over Senator Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate. "I wish it hadn't happened," he said. "Everybody should share in the blame."

While he was "no longer the front-runner," he said it was nonsense to suggest that he and President Reagan would "stay down" in popularity.

He refused to answer certain key questions about his role in the affair, saying: "I don't discuss inside workings of the White House." Senator Dole is doing nothing to stifle the flames of controversy. He said that Mr Reagan had not yet convinced the American public that he had done all he could to get at the truth.

"He urged the appointment of a special counsel, he let his people testify on (the Capitol Hill), and so on. But there is still a lot of confusion out there. Still a feeling that he has to do something bold himself to clear the air," he said.

A poll sponsored by US News & World Report and Cable News Network shows that as a result of the scandal Mr Bush is now the choice of 25 per cent of those questioned, compared to 20 per cent for Senator Dole. In the past Mr Bush's lead has been as high as 37 points.

Asked whether he and Mr Reagan should have known about the diversion of money

to the Nicaraguan Contras, he said: "I think something that important, the answer is yes. There are a lot of details that I would answer definitively no, but something like that, sure."

In an implied swipe at Senator Dole he repeated his loyalty to the President, saying that he would not "cut and run".

He made his remarks in Iowa, where a local poll among Republicans showed that Senator Dole had overtaken him by 28 points to 25. Seven months ago a similar poll gave Mr Bush a 34 to 16 per cent lead.

According to *The Washington Post* yesterday, the Reagan Administration in recent weeks has sent new messages to Iran encouraging relations, although arms sales would not be part of the bargain. The report was denied by the State Department.

But the paper quoted a State Department official as saying that it was important for the US to continue making serious and persistent efforts to improve relations because Iran is a key country in a strategic area.

● *Khashoggi funds*: Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer, borrowed \$4 million from Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the British businessman, to help to finance a secret arms sale to Iran. *The Sunday Times* said yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

The newspaper, claiming to have obtained the transcript of parts of an American TV interview which was never broadcast, said the arms dealer and Iranian middleman approached Mr Rowland, chief executive of the *Lanrho* group, to try to raise \$35 million for weapons shipments.

Waite plans Beirut trip for new hostage talks

By Nicholas Beeston

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, said yesterday he planned to return to Beirut to resume negotiations for the release of Western hostages.

He said that the timing of his return to Lebanon depended on whether he received guarantees for his security, but he did not rule out the possibility of flying in to Beirut on Christmas Eve.

Following disclosures in Washington about the White House's arms for hostages deal with Iran, he said, his mission had been set back and his contacts had gone underground.

"In the last two or three weeks I have resumed my contacts in Lebanon," he told *The Times*.

The Archbishop's emissary, who was credited with having negotiated the release of three American hostages until the Iran scandal surfaced in Washington, will primarily be working for the freedom of two British captives, Mr John



Mr Terry Waite: Ready to resume Lebanon contacts.

Home again — to a daughter not seen since 1966

Hero of Cuba's revolt set free

From Richard Wigg Madrid

After enduring 21 years in jail as a political prisoner, Señor Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, a Spanish-born hero of the Cuban revolution, arrived here yesterday having been freed by President Castro.

"At all times in prison, in the dungeons, I want to tell you, I felt a solidarity in spite of being kept incommunicado," the former guerrilla leader, aged 52, said during a brief emotional appearance at Madrid's Barajas Airport after a direct flight from Havana.

Señor Gutierrez, one of two foreign-born "commandantes" who led the fight against the Batista regime — the other was Señor Ernesto "Che" Guevara — was freed in time for Christmas thanks to an appeal to President Castro by Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, when visiting Cuba last month.

Though speaking with a strong voice and looking reasonably well when he thanked Señor González and King Juan Carlos for his liberation, Señor Gutierrez put off reporters' questioning for a day or two.

"I am overcome with the emotions of arriving," he said, embracing a 24-year-old daughter he had not seen for 20 years.

The former guerrilla, who became disillusioned with the Castro regime's growing alignment with the Soviet Union, had left Madrid as a child towards the end of the Civil War, in which his father fought in the Republican Army.

Señor Gutierrez entered Havana one week before Dr Castro, and was afterwards given Cuban citizenship.

But he left Cuba in 1961, returning with an armed band of Cuban exiles living in the United States.

He was first sentenced to death in 1965 for "rebellion against the fatherland", afterwards commuted to 30 years' jail but given a 25-year additional sentence in a subsequent trial for allegedly leading anti-Castro forces from jail.

Since the advent of Spanish democracy in 1977, repeated efforts had been made to secure his release.

Señor Gutierrez, in an interview with a Spanish reporter who travelled with him from Cuba broadcast yesterday after his arrival, explained his changed attitude to the revolution.

He said that he fought in the revolution for profound changes and that to him it did not mean tyranny or repression. He denied President Castro's claim that he had been a CIA agent.

He accused the Cuban regime of seeking to break political prisoners by forcing them "to vegetate completely". It was only in the last few months in jail that he had been able to read any books, he said.



Señor Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, freed after 21 years in Cuban jails, embracing his daughter.

Chinese demonstrations may herald fresh power struggle

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Observers of Chinese affairs here are divided as to whether the student demonstrations in Shanghai at the weekend are a spontaneous affair or yet another manifestation of a power struggle in the Chinese leadership.

Shanghai has always been volatile and the fiercest struggles of the Cultural Revolution took place there. All the members of the now-jailed "Gang of Four" — including Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing — had Shanghai backgrounds.

But hardly any violence has been reported from Shanghai, despite the scores of thousands of people who have

reportedly taken to the streets, mostly students, demanding "democratic reforms".

Foreign residents in Shanghai yesterday said there was no hostility to foreigners and the mood of the crowds was good, although the police seemed to be becoming tense.

One line of speculation is that supporters of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, have fomented the demonstrations through the student children of officials, to serve notice on less liberal Party circles that a return to the chaotic politics of the Mao period will not be tolerated.

Mr Deng has promised to retire this year, but doubts

persist about the ability of his immediate successors — Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, and Mr Hu Yaobang, Secretary-General of the Communist Party — to hold the reins against left-wing pressures still widespread in Party middle echelons.

Observers recall that the much-wanted "democracy wall" period in Peking in 1978-79 was used by Mr Deng to gain popular support for his ousting of left-leaning members of the Politburo. But the movement, which was centred on wall-posters rather than on demonstrations, was firmly suppressed when it had served its purpose.

Voyager record bid

Tired pilots set for early landfall

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The frail Voyager aircraft is due to touch down in California's Mojave Desert on Christmas Eve, a day earlier than scheduled and still with plenty of fuel aboard.

Its two crew, however, suffering from exhaustion after a particularly violent Africa crossing in which they were repeatedly thrown against the walls and top of their small compartment, have become forgetful and nearly lost one of the two engines after they failed to top it up with oil.

Mr Peter Riva, the Voyager spokesman, said that Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager were over the Atlantic when they noticed one engine was dangerously hot. "They were supposed to check the oil every six hours, but had neglected to do so for a day and a half. The engine was not damaged."

Judging from the progress

made up to yesterday, there was little doubt that Voyager was going to achieve the first non-stop flight around the world without refuelling. According to data issued on Saturday, it had covered 18,212 miles since taking off from Edwards Air Force Base last Sunday, and had about 7,000 miles to go.

It was soaring easily over the Atlantic yesterday, making good speed on favourable tail winds. But, according to Mr Len Snellman, the flight meteorologist, a bad weather system will block the plane from taking a southern approach to the United States and instead it will have to cross Costa Rica to the Pacific and turn north, probably up the Gulf of California.

The pilots had to strap on oxygen masks and take the plane to its maximum altitude of 18,000 ft in search of the Atlantic tail winds, before reducing height.

Mr Riva, who talked to both pilots, reported: "Dick said, 'I'm tired and I want to go to bed in California.' At the time, Voyager was cruising at 165 mph."

He said that despite having to use both engines to climb towards the Atlantic tail winds, Voyager will probably land with enough fuel left for several thousand miles beyond its 24,000-mile round-the-world goal.

For a time the pilots had feared that they were using too much fuel, but it transpired that one tank was leaking into another. The aircraft, with one engine in front and one behind, took off with 1,489 gallons of fuel stored in 17 tanks in wings, stabilizer booms and the fuselage.

Activists set sights on Canada fur cull

From John Best, Ottawa

The animal rights activists who a few years ago killed off Canada's seal fishing industry have now switched their attack to the country's fur trapping trade.

The House of Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development produced a report which describes the activists as "a wealthy growth industry".

The report said that the fur industry and the livelihood of about 100,000 trappers, the majority of them Eskimos and Indians, are in danger of destruction.

"For many native and non-native people, trapping is an essential part of life," the report said. "Yet trapping is coming under increasing attack from the animal rights movement, which is opposed to any kind of animal use. Their strategy is to eliminate the consumer market for fur products."

More than 90 per cent of the four million wild fur pelts harvested annually in Canada by trapping, and about half the fur garments, are exported.

The committee's report preceded the final report of a royal commission on Canada's ill-fated seal industry, set up two years ago after overseas markets for seal pelts had collapsed under the weight of a determined international lobby against the seal hunt.

The report said that trapping "has always been and should remain" an essential part of Canada's cultural and economic mosaic. As well as its \$600 million (£300 million) in direct earnings, the industry generates about \$200 million a year for allied industries, such as transport.

Its bitter antagonist is the animal rights movement. One

organization, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has more than 500,000 members and a net annual income of more than \$20 million within the United States alone.

In Britain, a centre of the anti-fur campaign, groups such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had moved from a traditional position of animal welfare, which allowed humane use of animals, to a "very strong anti-fur position".

Pamphlets, films and newspaper advertisements used by activist groups to solicit funds depict a frenzied and frightened animal struggling to free its mangled and bleeding foot from the jaws of a steel-toothed leghold trap but the report says such traps are no longer used.

Sixty-five per cent of animals killed for fur in Canada are caught by quick-kill traps. Of the rest, two-thirds are semi-aquatic and are taken in water, the leghold being used as a quick-kill drowning set. The rest are trapped on land by modern leghold traps, with padded or offset jaws.

The report is sharply critical of Canada's foreign service for allegedly having failed to stand up for Canadian trappers in the face of attacks from abroad, and calls on the External Affairs Department to stiffen its spine instead of acting, in the words of one witness, like "an ostrich that would really prefer the problem to go away".

It calls on Canadian governments — wildlife is primarily a provincial responsibility in Canada — to devote more attention to trapper education and better trapping methods.

WORLD SUMMARY

Shultz to meet Tambo in US

Washington — Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to meet Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), next month in Washington (Christopher Thomas writes).

The encounter represents a breakthrough in international recognition of the main guerrilla force seeking to topple the white minority Government of South Africa. The Reagan Administration insists that the purpose is not to legitimize a military movement but "to facilitate a dialogue between the Government of South Africa and the legitimate voice of the black community".

Mr Shultz has previously stated a willingness to meet Mr Tambo despite "serious questions" about ANC objectives, tactics and communist influence among its officials.

The meeting was arranged in Lusaka during three hours of talks between Mr Michael Armistead, the US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs and senior ANC officials.

Pretoria tightens curbs on press, page 7

Reporter still held Iran says 80 killed

Harare — The Zambian authorities were yesterday still holding Mr John Edlin, aged 41, the Associated Press correspondent arrested on Friday while on his way to cover recent food riots in the country's Copper Belt (A Correspondent writes).

Friends said that the veteran New Zealand journalist, who was visited by a Zambian lawyer yesterday, looked haggard and unkempt when they took food and toiletries to him in remand prison. Lusaka has still not said why he is being held.

Tehran (Reuters) — More than 80 civilians were killed in an Iraqi air raid on Iran's western city of Bakhtaran yesterday, the Iranian news agency Irna reported. It said that Iran would retaliate with 24 hours of long-range artillery fire on Iraqi military and industrial areas.

Irna said Iraqi fighter-bombers hit residential areas of the city, 50 miles from the central front of the six-year-old war, and attacked the town of Es-lamabad-e Gharb, in Bakhtaran province.

Two die in Goa riot

New Delhi (Reuters) — Troops were called out in Goa last night after two people were killed and 14 wounded as rival groups battled with guns and iron bars during language riots in the popular seaside resort on India's west coast.

The Press Trust of India said that troops marched into the riot-torn town of Margao as a minister's home was ransacked and sabotage blacked out Panaji, the territorial capital, which has 80,000 people.

PTI said scores of rioters had been arrested in four days of violence by thousands of demonstrators demanding statehood for Goa, with the local Konkani its official language, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of India's takeover of the tiny former Portuguese enclave.

Costly attack

Madrid — The explosion and fire which destroyed a French-owned factory purifying industrial waste near Bilbao on Friday night was the most costly blow against property so far by Eta's military wing in the Basque country, according to insurance experts (Richard Wigg writes).

They put the damage around £10 million, and the devastated company is now threatening to withdraw its operations from the Basque region of northern Spain.

Escaper cornered

Bonn — A convicted police-killer who escaped from a clinic after a September leg operation was recaptured by a special police unit on Saturday on the North Sea island of Sylt (John England writes).

Alfred Leck, aged 48, who was serving a life sentence for shooting a policeman in 1972, is known as Germany's "escape king". The Bonn clinic escapee was his fourth escape from custody since 1968.

Quisling quandary

Oslo — Vidkun Quisling, the Norwegian leader under Nazi occupation, was also a bigamist, according to lawyers acting for his first wife (Tony Samstag writes).

The traitor, whose name has entered the language as a term of revilement, has since 1984 been at the centre of a convoluted court case about ownership of the "Quisling archive", documents found in the cellar of an Oslo grocery.

He married twice. His second wife, Maria, died in 1980, and now his first wife claims there was no divorce, and that Maria Quisling, who bequeathed all her documents to the nation, had no right to do so.

Woman priest

Mrs Linda Poindexter, left, the wife of Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who resigned as President Reagan's National Security Adviser over the arms to Iran scandal, was ordained a priest at the Episcopal church in Washington.



Zimbabwe minister demoted

From A Correspondent Harare

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, has announced the demotion of Dr Eddison Zvobgo, his Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, from his position within the ruling Zanu (PF) Party hierarchy.

Dr Zvobgo, once thought to be among the most powerful of his lieutenants, was dismissed at the weekend by the Zanu (PF) central committee as chairman of its Masvingo Provincial Organization. He retains his cabinet post.

Mr Mugabe said Dr Zvobgo, aged 51, had been found guilty of using "obscene" and "tribalistic" language to a superior in the party.

Observers in Harare believe his demotion raises important questions about the unity of the dominant Shona language group in Zimbabwe at a time when Mr Mugabe is trying to heal long-standing rift with Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu supporters in Matabeleland.

Dr Zvobgo was at one stage the most notable politician among the traditionally powerful Karanga sub-tribe, which lives in the south-part of the country around Masvingo (formerly Fort Victoria).

A lawyer who spent 10 years in detention in Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesia, Dr Zvobgo has recently been drafting a new one-party state constitution which Mr Mugabe hopes to introduce next year.

Spaniards pray for 'El Gordo'

From Harry Debelius Madrid

"The Fat One" is poised to land in Spain today with a sackful of gifts that would make Father Christmas look like Scrooge.

Spain's annual Christmas lottery, the biggest in the world, will create a number of instant millionaires — in pounds — and make dreams come true for countless Spaniards by distributing £389 million in cash.

El Gordo — "The Fat One" is what Spaniards affectionately call the top prize number. With an average investment of about £14 in the Christmas draw by every man, woman and child, there is hardly a Spaniard who is not hoping for a yuletide visit from "The Fat One".

In Spain even the biggest winners can collect their prize in total, and without delay. Business grinds to a halt on December 22, the day of the draw, and radio and television broadcast the event live.

The ceremony goes on for hours as choirboys pick wooden balls from two wire cages. Each ball in a larger cage has a number painted on it. The other cage has balls with prize amounts painted on them.

One boy sings out the number he has drawn, and immediately another sings out the amount. This process continues until all the prize balls have been removed.

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SUMMARY

to meet in US

George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to meet in Washington next month with the African President, President Ntshirangwe, to discuss a breakthrough in international relations between the two countries. The meeting is expected to take place in Washington in January 1987.

Shultz is expected to discuss the situation in South Africa, the recent election in Botswana, and the role of the United States in the region.

Iran says 80 killed

Iranian officials say that 80 people were killed in a recent air raid on a city in the north of the country. The attack was carried out by Israeli aircraft, and the Iranian government has demanded compensation for the victims.

in Goa riot

A riot broke out in Goa, India, on Sunday, resulting in the deaths of several people. The riot was caused by a dispute over land, and the police have been called in to restore order.

Escaper cornered

A man who had escaped from a prison in the United States has been cornered by police in a city in the Midwest. The man is wanted for several crimes, and the police are offering a reward for his capture.

Spaniards pray for Gordo

Spaniards are praying for the recovery of a man named Gordo, who has been suffering from a serious illness. Gordo is a well-known figure in Spain, and his condition has been the subject of much speculation.

Kremlin troubleshooter moves quickly to soothe Kazakh feelings

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A leading member of the Kremlin hierarchy spent the weekend in the central Asian republic of Kazakhstan assessing the implications of last week's widespread rioting in Alma-Ata, the capital, and attending meetings with local residents. The trouble-shooting mission was undertaken by Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, a member of the 12-strong ruling Politburo and chairman of the Communist Party's control committee. He was accompanied by Mr Gennadiy Kolbin, the Gorbachev loyalist and Russian national whose appointment as the republic's new Party chief in place of Mr

Thatcher to welcome dissident poet today

By Nicholas Beeston

Miss Irina Ratushinskaya, the Russian dissident poet who arrived in Britain last week, will be welcomed officially by the Prime Minister at Downing Street this morning. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said that Mrs Thatcher made a point of seeing all freed dissidents who came to Britain after long terms of imprisonment. He said that she would bring up the issue of Soviet human rights violations and the imprisonment of dissidents during her visit to

Germans 'helping' Gadafi

Hamburg (AP) — West German experts are secretly helping Colonel Gadafi to build and test missiles in the Libyan desert to replace obsolete Soviet rockets, according to the weekly magazine Stern. The magazine, which will carry its report on the issue in tomorrow's edition, yesterday leaked excerpts to news agencies. It said that West German missile and electronics parts were being shipped to Tripoli as "air freight" before being transported 434 miles south to a secret desert construction and test range.

Electronics experts and engineers from West German research institutes were helping the Libyans to build and test the missiles, it said. One researcher said yesterday that only a qualified spokesman could comment on the report, and none was available. Stern attributed its report to "documents and records" which it says are being examined by the Karlsruhe Prosecutor's Office and German customs investigators. It quoted an unidentified spokesman for the prosecutor's office as saying that the authorities had undertaken two investigations "owing to suspicion of illegal weapons exports and violations of foreign trade laws."

Stern said that the spokesman declined to elaborate on the investigations. Controversy over alleged illegal arms exports arose in Bonn last month after allegations that a Hamburg ship-builder sold submarine blueprints to South Africa with the tacit approval of the Federal Government.

The conservative-led coalition of Chancellor Kohl has denied having approved the blueprint export. But, under opposition pressure, a parliamentary commission will meet next month to study the allegations. Stern said that Colonel Gadafi's missile construction range was located in the Sahara near the Ghat oasis, where the borders of Libya, Niger and Chad converge. It described the area as "Gadafi's main headquarters". The new missiles were intended to have a 300-mile range and to allow the Libyans to place in reserve older Soviet Scud and Frog rockets. Stern did not say when the missile project began.

Dinmukhamed Kunayev, the veteran Kazakh leader, sparked the protest. Western observers say that the speed with which a man of Mr Solomentsev's seniority was despatched to the area was confirmation of the seriousness of the street disturbances on Wednesday and Thursday. They noted that a similar procedure was undertaken after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, when two leading Politburo members were rushed to the Ukraine. Although the Kremlin's new glasnost (openness) policy has not yet run to giving details of casualties caused during the

riots, there have been unconfirmed reports of several people killed in clashes between demonstrators and Soviet militia forces. A report by Tass from Alma-Ata indicated that food shortages may have played a part in fueling the battles, which began with what Soviet officials said were student demonstrations exploited by nationalists and "parasites". The agency said that the two senior officials had discussed "issues aimed at consolidating ties between the city and the countryside". It quoted them as calling for better efforts to meet food planning goals and growing demand. On television Mr Solomentsev was seen telling workers "We must increase the harvest".

The two also visited Kazakh State University and the State Polytechnic Institute, addressing students and professors on the need to respect "the traditions of internationalism", an apparent rebuke to the nationalist tone of the riots. Yesterday they attended a special meeting of the republic's Council of Ministers. Reporting the session, Tass said: "Prime attention during the discussion was paid to ways of overcoming shortcomings in Kazakhstan's social and economic development."

During the meeting special emphasis was placed on the need to respond to public demands for more consumer goods. President Mitterrand's refusal on Thursday to sign the French Government's decree providing for more flexible working conditions has so angered the right-wing majority that the Government took the unprecedented move of forcing it through Parliament before it rose on Saturday for the Christmas recess. In a matter of 24 hours the Government turned the decree, the equivalent of full-scale parliamentary Bill, into an amendment and tacked it on to the end of another Bill on social conditions which was coming up for its second reading.

Furious at what they considered to be a mockery, the socialists tried every trick they knew to delay the last parliamentary session so that the Bill and its amendment would not become law. But the Government, in a mammoth 24-hour sitting, forced the Bill through and the discovery by the French intelligence services of an arms cache — the third in three months — on the outskirts of Paris on Thursday has led to the arrest of six people, it was announced at the weekend (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris). Those held are understood to come from the Near and Middle East. It gave its final Senate reading as well, enabling it to become law.

The socialists immediately sent the Bill to France's Constitutional Council, which will judge whether these forcing tactics are permissible. If it gives the Bill and its amendment the green light it will become law; if not the amendment will probably be presented as a Bill during the spring parliamentary session.

Mitterrand's refusal to sign the decree, his third since the right came to power in March, had the backing of trade unions, who saw workers' rights and their own power diminished under the proposed decree. It allowed for flexible working hours, including night work for women, so that a basic number of hours could be calculated over a period of different shifts. It also allowed, in certain cases, for direct worker negotiation with management. Mitterrand said that it upset the social status quo and that such proposals should go through Parliament. The Government replied that it was a foundation of their policy of creating more jobs by creating more flexible conditions and that the President was blocking their ability to govern. This revenge on President Mitterrand can also be seen as a Government morale-boosting operation in the face of student agitation and strikes.

Housing protest turns to battle



Riot police and leftist militants clashing in one of several pitched battles that broke out in Hamburg during a weekend demonstration over housing policy. The violence, which left 93 police and 31 protesters injured, started as about 10,000 young demonstrators, watched by 2,500 police, marched through central

Prisoners continue strike for freedom

Dhaka — Riot police ringed Bangladesh's central prison in old Dhaka yesterday as about 3,500 prisoners continued their week-long hunger strike to press for freedom under an amnesty announced last week by President Ershad (Ahmed Fazi writes). A prison official said that the prisoners were refusing to take food unless their demand for inclusion in the amnesty list was accepted. The strikers, who include several hundred political prisoners and former independence fighters, are also asking for better living conditions in the crowded jail.

12 blasts

Ajaccio (Reuters) — Twelve small bombs exploded in Corsica on Saturday night, damaging property connected with the French mainland but causing no casualties.

Gang assault

New York (Reuters) — New York police are hunting for a gang of about 12 whites who assaulted three blacks, one of whom died when he was struck by a car when fleeing.

Safe haven

San José (Reuters) — A Costa Rican judge has turned down a Soviet request to extradite Mr Bobdan Kozio, aged 62, a former Ukrainian policeman charged with Nazi war crimes, saying that they were no longer punishable because of the long period since they occurred.

Weather wins

Basle (Reuters) — Two Swiss members of the environmental organization Greenpeace broke off their protest on top of a 395 ft chemical plant chimney when high winds, freezing temperatures and more snow were forecast.

Wrong man

Nairobi (AP) — A teenager mistook his father for a thief and slashed him to death with a machete at the door of their home, the Daily Nation newspaper reported.

No dough

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Some Israeli bakeries are refusing to make sufganiot — traditional jam-filled, deep-fried doughnuts — for the Jewish Hanukkah festival because the Government has fixed maximum prices they can charge.

Mitterrand snubbed as Bill passed

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

President Mitterrand's refusal on Thursday to sign the French Government's decree providing for more flexible working conditions has so angered the right-wing majority that the Government took the unprecedented move of forcing it through Parliament before it rose on Saturday for the Christmas recess.

In a matter of 24 hours the Government turned the decree, the equivalent of full-scale parliamentary Bill, into an amendment and tacked it on to the end of another Bill on social conditions which was coming up for its second reading. Furious at what they considered to be a mockery, the socialists tried every trick they knew to delay the last parliamentary session so that the Bill and its amendment would not become law.

But the Government, in a mammoth 24-hour sitting, forced the Bill through and the discovery by the French intelligence services of an arms cache — the third in three months — on the outskirts of Paris on Thursday has led to the arrest of six people, it was announced at the weekend (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris). Those held are understood to come from the Near and Middle East. It gave its final Senate reading as well, enabling it to become law.

The socialists immediately sent the Bill to France's Constitutional Council, which will judge whether these forcing tactics are permissible. If it gives the Bill and its amendment the green light it will become law; if not the amendment will probably be presented as a Bill during the spring parliamentary session.

Mitterrand's refusal to sign the decree, his third since the right came to power in March, had the backing of trade unions, who saw workers' rights and their own power diminished under the proposed decree. It allowed for flexible working hours, including night work for women, so that a basic number of hours could be calculated over a period of different shifts. It also allowed, in certain cases, for direct worker negotiation with management. Mitterrand said that it upset the social status quo and that such proposals should go through Parliament. The Government replied that it was a foundation of their policy of creating more jobs by creating more flexible conditions and that the President was blocking their ability to govern. This revenge on President Mitterrand can also be seen as a Government morale-boosting operation in the face of student agitation and strikes.

Unions boost conflict with Paris Government

Alpine holidaymakers hit by nationwide transport strikes

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The fears of M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, that greater social unrest would develop if he gave way to students' demands, appear well founded. France is in the grip of a wave of transport strikes which are seriously disrupting the well-laid plans of Christmas holidaymakers.

Most seriously hit are the trains. Localized strikes which began on Thursday have become nationwide as the Communist-backed CGT union has joined the Socialist CFTD union in calling out its men. Add to that a strike by seamen and a two-day air strike by Air Inter personnel, all of which coincide with the end of the French school term, and a picture of confusion and frustration emerges with holidaymakers waiting around stations and dozing in corners. SNCF, the state-owned railways, brought in a minimum service plan over the weekend to ensure that most of the prestigious high-speed TGV

Alpine holidaymakers hit by nationwide transport strikes

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Corsean families working on the mainland who are trying to get home for Christmas have been stranded and Corsica's important mandarin crop, which has been picked to reach the mainland for Christmas, is in danger of rotting before it can reach the shops. Many of those heading for the ski resorts changed their plans in the face of the train strike and decided to go by car.

In two areas roads were also blocked on Saturday by hundreds of demonstrators protesting against the closure of a Pétroliers factory in one instance and traffic jams on local Alps roads in the other. The fact that the railway workers have chosen the Christmas period to go on strike threatens to make them unpopular. They say they want immediate negotiations with SNCF management on salaries and working hours. The SNCF has set January 6 as the first date for negotiations.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES RM, WAITING STREET, LONDON, EC4M 3AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, 30TH DECEMBER 1986, ON AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE GLASSGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER 1986.

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £600,000,000

2½ per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2024

RAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: £300.00 per cent

Deposit with tender: £300.00 per cent

On Tuesday, 10th February 1987

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 17TH JANUARY AND 17TH JULY

1. The Stock is an investment for the period of 10 years commencing on 1st January 1987. The Stock is to be issued in the form of a Treasury Stock Certificate.

2. The amount of the Stock to be issued is £600,000,000.

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Top donors seize control of UN spending from Third World majority

From Zoriana Fysariwsky, New York

The United Nations, which has a reputation for spending money with a sense of sheer abandon, will have to shed some of that notoriety. The 41st session of the General Assembly, which rose at the weekend, has approved reforms which give major donors a mastery over the budgetary process.

The package was the result of a campaign by Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union — three of the main beneficiaries — who formed an unusual alliance to stem expenditures, which, on paper, have led to the regular UN budget more than doubling over the past 10 years to \$840 million (about £560 million) for 1986.

Diplomats predict that the UN is entering a new era now that control over spending has finally been wrested from the Third World majority. More than 70 member nations pay less than 2 per cent of the entire budget.

General Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador, saw the victory as "a great day for the United States and a great day for mankind". But, on the other hand, to Zimbabwe's Mr Isack Mudenge, the reform package contained "the potential for subverting the democratic principles governing the organization".

In essence the Third World majority was forced to hand over power after Washington, which under the UN Charter is obliged to pay a quarter of the organization's expenses, withheld more than half of its \$210 million contribution and forced the UN to live from hand to mouth. Although the need for austerity was cited, the US cuts were clearly a backlash to the anti-Americanism that has seemingly formed the lifeblood of the UN for more than two decades.

The size, redundancies and enmity that permeated the UN bureaucracy had become legendary. Its political organs, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, had provided the secretariat with a plethora of world problems to settle.

But while solutions were rarely forthcoming, contingency plans were kept and reports filed to somehow jus-

tify the existence of many new programmes while the watch and the wait for peace continued.

Under the new rules the UN will aim to reduce its 14,000 staff by 15 per cent, and cut back on meetings, travel and documentation — which is enough to paper a path to the moon every year. For the first time there will be a predetermined budget ceiling and the 21-member committee for programme and co-ordination, in which the largest donors will flex their muscle, will have the power to approve the size and priorities of each budget.

After the resolution was adopted General Walters said that it would strengthen

'Major success' for US policies

Mr Alan Keyes, the US assistant Secretary of State, said that the 13-week assembly session had been a "major success" for the policies of the Reagan Administration (Reagan reports from New York). Although many had insisted that the United States would not succeed in creating an environment for change in the world body, "one sees a steady progress towards the goals that we had defined as necessary for the improvement of the United Nations," he said.

greatly his hand to lobby Congress to restore funds to the UN.

But diplomats here believe that one of the impediments is the mood of the US Congress and whether the carefully crafted formula for reform will satisfy its hardliners. If Congress does not respond favourably, the entire reform edifice could collapse.

Among other issues that dominated the 41st session was mounting concern that many of the special rapporteurs appointed by the Human Rights Commission to monitor compliance with international standards, had failed to assemble information fairly and even-handedly.

Their reports on Chile and Iran were criticized widely by diplomats and human rights activists for having come close to whitewashing. In the case of Iran, the report dealt almost

exclusively with attempts to persuade Tehran to allow in an inspection team.

In the past the reports have been viewed as the definitive assessment of the human rights situation in a given country, with advocates saying that they have saved lives. But it is noted widely that the rapporteurs have begun to bend over backwards not to offend governments and are belittling claims presented by opposition parties.

The Soviet Union was the target of a double-pronged censure at the weekend. It was charged with committing atrocities in Afghanistan, and its much-heralded withdrawal of 8,000 troops from the territory in October was dismissed as a hollow propaganda gesture.

France, which had managed to avoid criticism, was told to bring the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia under UN oversight.

An unsuccessful Arab challenge to Israel's credentials in the assembly revealed the potential for further Israeli diplomatic inroads into Africa and signalled, all but formally, the end of the traditional Arab-African alliance, which once radicalized the UN.

At the same time, the Palestine Liberation Organization regained some of its political relevance in the debates on the Middle East as the Palestinians began to adopt a more unified front in Lebanon.

Britain suffered its most severe diplomatic defeat over the Falkland Islands as 116 countries voted for Anglo-Argentine negotiations on sovereignty.

Britain, as President of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, had the task of delivering statements on behalf of the Twelve on issues ranging from information to Israeli policy on the West Bank.

The UN view was that hundreds of hours were spent by EEC representatives drafting speeches which because of its lowest common denominator approach were decidedly innocuous. But Britain's talent for spell-binding delivery made the statements sound more important than they really were.



The steeple of the former St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Buffalo, New York state, crashing to the ground as fire guts the 137-year-old church, which was closed in 1981 and has since been sold. No serious injuries were reported.

Pakistan Cabinet resignation scorned

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

The Pakistani Opposition has scorned the weekend resignation of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, in the wake of a week of disturbances in Karachi to enable him to form a new Government to deal with the situation.

Mr Junejo, the country's first civilian Prime Minister after more than eight years of martial law, obtained the resignations of the members of his Government — some 40 Ministers, Ministers of State and advisers — at a Cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi on Saturday.

Although an official press statement emphasized that Saturday's resignation were not related to the situation in Karachi, the Opposition described it as a cosmetic change intended to impress the public.

Several Opposition leaders, including Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, said that the political situation demanded the immediate resignation of General Zia as President and the chief of the Army, and of the Sind Government, under which Karachi's worst ethnic riots have claimed an estimated 160 lives to date.

There is speculation that Mr Junejo will form a new Cab-

net in the next day or two and will then deal with the question of the Sind Government, which apparently has failed to solve the disputes between the Pathans and the immigrants from India living in Karachi and other parts of Sind.

This is the second Cabinet reshuffle since he was nominated as Prime Minister by General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, in March 1985. The first, in January, followed the lifting of martial law on December 31, 1985.

Government party sources said that his latest action was intended to rid the Pakistan Muslim League Government and parliamentary party of corrupt or disloyal elements.

But many in the Opposition believe that it demonstrates his party's inherent weakness in face of the crisis.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Peshawar, an airfield under construction at Parachinar, close to the border with Afghanistan, was damaged during a rocket attack on Friday night.

Officials did not identify those responsible. The attack followed tribal agitation against the construction of a link road leading to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border which may be being built for defence purposes.

EEC under Tindemans Belgian presidency to make foreign policy its priority

From Richard Owen, Brussels

On the eve of the EEC's 30th anniversary, Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, is poised to build on the British presidency by launching a series of European foreign-policy initiatives and consolidating moves towards European integration.

Belgium wants Europe to play a "leading diplomatic role" in both the Middle East and Central America, in the wake of the scandals surrounding American policies on Iran and Nicaragua.

Mr Tindemans takes over from Sir Geoffrey Howe as President of the EEC Council of Ministers in a little more than a week. He is undisputedly the most experienced of the EEC's foreign ministers, having served in the Community, including an "unbelievably difficult" budget crisis.

"There are now twelve where there were six, and what we are going through does not compare to the founding fathers' great labour of creating a masterpiece from scratch," he said.

The fire-lit room in the government chateau where he receives his guests was the venue for the negotiation of the Treaty in 1956-1957. A plaque on the wall commemorates the fact in several European languages. "I am only sorry it is not in English, too," he says wryly. "It was brought up on British diplomatic history and Britain's role in Europe".

Belgium, like other small EEC nations, is deeply committed to the European ideal precisely because — unlike Britain or France — it no longer has a wider world role of its own. It welcomes, nevertheless, what it sees as a more committed British attitude to the Community.

Under British leadership, a start has been made on reforming the common agricultural policy, which in turn will make it easier to restructure EEC finances as a whole. Similarly, Britain has paved the way for EEC policies on cheaper air fares and the completion of the internal market, and has presided over co-ordinated foreign policy issues.

This is reflected on the list of EEC priorities Mr Tindemans sketches out for the coming year. Top of the list is the budget crisis caused by

excessive farm spending, and the economic situation in Europe.

Despite the unprecedented farm reforms in dairy and beef production, Mr Tindemans fears that EEC funds for social and regional spending will run out towards the end of the Belgian presidency, and this will threaten the "cohesion" of the Twelve by antagonizing the southern states who benefit most from the regional funds.

Belgium also has to deal with the detailed consequences of the farm cutbacks for Europe's farmers. Mr Tindemans is putting great store on the budget proposals to be made by M Jacques Delors, the Commission President. He refers repeatedly to "the



Mr Tindemans: Confident of weathering budget crisis

Delors package", saying that EEC leaders should not have been surprised by the Frenchman's warnings of crisis at the London summit this month.

M Delors is not due to report to EEC foreign ministers until February, so "two months will be lost", Mr Tindemans said.

The Belgian presidency plans to convene a special EEC summit in March, although Mr Tindemans, mindful of Mrs Thatcher's skill at avoiding controversial issues at the London summit, argues that "bilateral contacts" between EEC leaders may serve the purpose.

He does not want the Belgian presidency marred by a row over increasing national VAT contributions — not due to go up from 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent until 1988 — or

over an emergency supplementary budget.

Other Belgian priorities include research and technology, environmental protection, the battle against AIDS and the internal market. The Single European Act, which provides for more majority voting in the Council of Ministers, comes into force under the Belgian presidency, and the Belgian presidency, and new decision-making procedures in the council will have to be worked out.

But near the top of the priority list is foreign policy. Mr Tindemans, who was Belgian Prime Minister in the 1970s, is preoccupied with foreign policy and has a vision of continuity in European diplomacy from the Congress of Vienna to the present day. Under the British presidency the most prominent foreign issues were South Africa and international terrorism.

Although conscious of the enormous difficulty of co-ordinating 12 national positions, he aims to make the EEC a world force in several key areas: namely, relations with Russia and China; the "stupid" trade tensions with Washington; and, above all, the two world trouble spots of the Middle East and Central America.

In the Middle East, he argues, there could soon be "an explosion", not only because of the Israeli-Palestinian issue but also because of the Iran-Iraq war. The last EEC initiative on the Middle East was the Venice Declaration of 1980, which called for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the peace process.

Mr Tindemans passionately believes that Europe should again play a diplomatic role in 1987. As a start, he proposes to hold a foreign ministers' meeting to elaborate "a clear idea of EEC policy" on the Middle East next month.

The moderate Amb states, he says, were "deeply shocked" by the revelations about Washington's arms deals with Iran, and Arab ambassadors in Brussels have urged him to launch a new EEC initiative to give Europe a role to counteract that of the US.

Mr Tindemans believes that Europe also has a role to play in Central America by supporting the Contadora peace process.

US advice calms border tensions

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece and Turkey appear to be heading American advice for restraint after the weekend border incident in which a Greek and two Turkish soldiers were killed and another Greek soldier was wounded.

On both sides of the marshy delta of the River Evros marking the Greek-Turkish frontier outposts were still on the alert yesterday, but the situation was calm. Neither country seems inclined to escalate the tension.

The Greeks claim that the survivor of the three-man border patrol involved in the skirmish on Friday said that his fellow patrolman was shot

dead as he put down his rifle when a Turkish patrolman offered to swap Turkish for Greek cigarettes.

Mr Yannis Kapsis, the Greek Foreign Under-Secretary, said that he had called in the Turkish Ambassador on Saturday to renew Greece's vigorous protest against the violation of Greek territory by the Turkish patrol and the killing "in cold blood" of a soldier.

Mr Kapsis said that the joint Greek-Turkish border commission, which met to investigate the circumstances of the incident, had failed to reach agreement.

A Turkish proposal for a

follow-up meeting today at the site of the incident was agreed by the Greeks, on condition that Turkey first extend apologies for the violations and pay compensation to the families of the Greek victims.

The US diplomatic intervention in urging restraint to both sides indicated that Friday's episode was taken more seriously in Washington than had been assumed. One reason is that the points of friction between the two countries have multiplied.

The US and Britain are expected to redouble their efforts to encourage the two countries to resume a diplomatic dialogue.

Syria troops take control in Tripoli

From Juan Carlos Gamuio, Beirut

Syrian troops in tanks and armoured cars yesterday controlled the streets of Tripoli after a two-day battle with Sunni Muslim fundamentalists which left 30 people dead and more than 60 hurt in the northern Lebanese coastal city.

Fighting stopped after the Syrian Army eliminated resistance by the pro-Palestinian "Tawheed Islami" or Islamic Unification Movement.

The battles are a brief but violent extension of the latest round of the "war of the camps" between PLO guerrillas and the Shia Muslim Arab militia both in southern Lebanon and in Beirut.

They are also a sign that the PLO and its allies have regained enough strength to defy the Syrians and to drag them into open confrontation on Lebanese soil.

The "Tawheed" is a pro-Iranian Sunni Muslim militia traditionally loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the PLO. It inherited much of the military hardware left behind by the guerrillas when they were expelled from northern Lebanon by pro-Syrian Lebanese factions in 1983.

Last year the group was nearly destroyed by the Syrian Army, which maintains about 25,000 troops in northern and

eastern Lebanon under a 1976 mandate of the Arab League.

In Beirut, meanwhile, tanks of the Shia Muslim Amal militia shelled the ruins of the small Palestinian refugee camp of Chatilla and the Bourj el-Barajneh camp in a relentless effort to dislodge Palestinian guerrillas.

The battles came as Iranian negotiators struggled in vain to stop the fighting, which has claimed about 700 lives since November 24. The attempts were on the brink of collapse after Libya, which is also involved in peace talks in Damascus, sided openly with the Palestinians.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARRACUDA HALL 608 8700/8300
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THE ARTS

Fun for those who like music

A decade after the birth of punk, and the suffocating lack of variety it came to impose, David Sinclair looks back over a year of rock that has thrown off the shackles and indulged in a 'glorious diversification'



Generation X, with Billy Idol (second from left), one of the biggest stars thrown up by the punk movement, and Tony James (third left), who has also turned into something of a parody of the movement's original ideals

The year 1986, we were often reminded, was the tenth anniversary of the birth of punk. The commentators grabbed for their rose-tinted spectacles and reminisced about the tremendous undercurrent of energy and excitement that built throughout 1976 and came to such rude fruition by the time of the Sex Pistols' "God Save the Queen" and the Jubilee celebrations in 1977. It seemed to strike most people that, in comparison, 1986 was a year with a dismal lack of distinction, a period of aimless entrenchment that saw the big acts getting bigger, unchallenged by any new emergent movement or groundswell of original talent.

The 1986 charts were dominated, so the argument ran, either by stadium acts like Queen, Dire Straits, Genesis, Simple Minds and Eurythmics or glossy pop caricatures like Whitney Houston, Wham!, A-ha and Madonna, who between them were less of a hegemonic alliance of dinosaur rock and vaudeville than that which had prompted the upsurge of punk in 1976. Even old codgers like Peter Gabriel, Robert Palmer and Steve Winwood scored convincing hits with little difficulty.

The independent scene revealed no less a degree of atrophy as the ICA's week-long showcase of indie bands in July demonstrated: a succession of acts like the Shop Assistants, the Soup Dragons, Bogshed and the Mighty Lemon Drops all played jangly guitars with varying degrees of ineptitude, and tried their best to conform to the new orthodoxy as established by the Jesus and Mary Chain and the Smiths. No threat to anyone there.

It is true to say that, for all the fervour that greeted the iconoclastic phenomenon of punk, much of it the product of the over-excited imaginations of media people, even a cursory glance at the recent activities of the main participants confirms that, ten years on, the legacy of that period must be considered a disappointment. Excluding the Police, who never cut much ice in the punk credibility stakes anyway, the biggest star thrown up by the movement turned out to be, of all people, Billy Idol, a punk equivalent of Shakin' Stevens, who has sold five million albums and three million singles since 1981. His October release *Whiplash Smile* was a pleasing but predictable mélange of tarted up rock 'n' roll. Tony James, with whom Idol formed Generation X in 1976, has likewise turned into something of a parody of the movement's original ideals, but his antics with Signe Signe Sputnik made him one of the most talked about figures in 1986, far more remarkable than John Lydon (né Rotten) whose album *Album*, which came out in February, sounded like a collection of Led Zeppelin riffs.

Sionxie and the Banishes spent the year touring abroad. Paul Weller continued to churn out the most banal ersatz-soul with the Style Council in between his electioneering efforts with Red Wedge, and Bob Geldof, at the age of 34, published his memoirs, which were considerably more entertaining than his album *Deep in the Heart of Nowhere*. How the Damned have managed to stay ten years in the business without learning to play remains a mystery, but if they had applied themselves to mastering the techniques involved they would have turned out the kind

of sonorous easy-listening pop albums like *Dreamtime* that the Stranglers now delight in producing? Of the class of '76 only Elvis Costello and Mick Jones with Big Audio Dynamite had any ongoing artistic relevance in 1986. Costello released two well-received albums, *King of America* and *Blood and Chocolate*, while BAD with Joe Strummer assisting with the writing and production unleashed *No 10 Upping Street*, a gloriously imaginative combination of post-punk rock and hip-hop. Despite the critical accolades, none of these three albums reached the top ten.

But was 1976-77 really a golden era in the history of rock and 1986 a year of fallow underachievement? While I enjoyed as much as the next person scurrying off to see all those daft bands like the Vibrators, 999, the Adverts, the Buzzcocks, Wire, X-Ray Spex, the Lurkers, the Slits and the Rezillos, together with such heavyweights as the Jam, the Clash, the Ramones, the Damned and the Pistols, all blasting out their raucous untutored rock 'n' roll with such unrepentant abandon, the attention that the movement attracted was such as to impose a stifling conformity on the music business.

Dire Straits were perhaps the only group at this time to build from a grass-roots following to a position of significant success without paying lip-service to the tenets of punk. But acts who turned out as differently as Sionxie, the Police, Tom Robinson, XTC and Ultravox, to name a few, all felt the need to hitch tags of convenience to the punk bandwagon

in order to get an even break. How laughable that this movement which preached the virtues of individual expression should have been so intolerant of any deviation from its own narrowly defined norms. Who knows what talent went unexpressed because of its initial lack of "punk credibility"?

Whatever the virtues of punk it imposed a suffocating lack of variety that was the complete reverse of the situation in 1986. But with rock now so lacking in a dominant theme or trend there has been a glorious diversification that really does leave artists free to pursue their own line and enables us, the consumers, to enjoy an unprecedented range of choice. We have seen hits from acts as diverse as the Smiths, Europe, Suzanne Vega, Prince, Bruce Springsteen, Fuzibor, Simply Red, Run DMC, the Housemartins, Bon Jovi and the Jesus and Mary Chain, and that is just in the top 30 alone.

There have been popular remanescences in country (Dwight Yoakham), jazz (Courtney Pine), blues (Robert Cray), funk (Troubadour/Cameo), Reggae (the "Ragamuffins" style) and soul together with visits from African bands, Cuban bands, all sorts of American roots rockers and upsurges of house music and hip-hop. Of them all hip-hop is the closest that 1986 has offered to the punk of 1976, but the diversity of what now passes for "rock" music is such that neither hip-hop, nor any other musical movement, will ever again achieve such a position of primacy in the scheme of things. The punk era was a great time for those of us who revelled in punk rock, but 1986 was a much better year for anyone who likes music.

OPERA

Osud/The Diary of One Who Disappeared Coliseum

For this revival of Janáček's *Osud* English National Opera has found it an almost ideal companion: the same composer's masterly song-cycle *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, staged for the first time in Britain (the idea is 60 years old on the Continent). Both works are concerned with Art's relationship to Life, and Life's relationship to Fate. *Osud*'s central figure is the composer Zivny, obsessed with the tragic-opera potential of his own life-story which, not surprisingly, soon fulfils his every fatalistic expectation. In *The Diary* the poet (hence also the composer) identifies with a peasant boy infatuated with, and seduced by, a gypsy girl. During the work's creation Janáček was himself similarly infatuated.

One possibly fortuitous circumstance of David Pountney's *Osud* staging also unifies this double bill. That is the grand piano - which Pountney places at the centre of a revolving stage in *Osud* - on which Zivny knocks up his *magnus opus*. For in *The Diary* the piano is again centre-stage, this time played (with a superb sense of idiom and drama) by a real pianist, Paul Crossley. That is surely right: the singers may narrate and act out the story, but the piano provides the crucial emotional subtext.

At the actual moment of seduction, for instance, where the poet lapses discreetly into a series of dashes, Janáček supplies a piano interlude of unambiguous erotic force. Pountney reinforces the instrument's centrality here by placing Zivny, the gypsy-girl, on a carpet of leaves under the Steinway itself, where she carries out her memorable promise to show Janek how "gypsies sleep at night". The production contains many such images, simply but strikingly conceived on an almost bare stage, often closely aligned to the poetry's own potent symbolism, and intelligently lit by Matthew Richardson.

Jean Rigby's Zivka perhaps looks too clean and wholesome, but she moves sensuously and her voice has a full



Philip Langridge: a magnificent, deeply considered performance

richness which properly takes on a more guttural edge when she describes her racial humiliation. However, *The Diary* is principally not about a gypsy's sexuality, but about her infatuated lover's gradual, painful (but ultimately proud) realization that, in giving her a child, he must cut all links with village and family, and become one of those he once despised. Arthur Davies's performance struck the right balance here: rough and unthinking early on - cracking a whip over his ploughing oxen to show how to "break in a gypsy" - but then increasingly tender in gesture and (more occasionally) voice.

Osud has some marvellous music, conducted with considerable devotion and passion here by Mark Elder, yet it remains basically unsatisfying even in this indefatigably ingenious Pountney production. The insane deaths in Act II are part of the problem; so is the character of Zivny, who postures artistically and shirks real moral responsibility for two acts, yet (presumably) is supposed to gain the audience's sympathy in his final pathetic monologue.

Still, there are magnificent, deeply considered performances from Philip Langridge and Eileen Hannon in the central roles; much well-drilled ensemble work around them; and (most noticeable of all, perhaps) the visual thrills of Stefanos Lazaridis's polythene merry-go-round of a set, emphasizing to stunning effect how brilliantly Janáček juxtaposes his forces in Act I.

Richard Morrison

A legend still lingering

Through some four hours of highly varied and variable music-making, the gala re-opening concert at Carnegie Hall, shut down since May 18 for renovation, raised more questions than it answered. Visually, the auditorium is newly warm and resplendent, its gold decorations cleaned and polished, its dominant stark white having given way to much off-white, cream and tan. Removal of the teaser curtain and panels above the stage - whose function was cosmetic, to hide holes in the acoustical shell, now repaired - makes the stage seem much more imposing, larger in relation to the hall itself. But, of course, far more important than any of the trappings is the preservation of the hall's fabled acoustics. And here the opening concert proved inconclusive.

It all began festively with the "Star-Spangled Banner" played by the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, the singing led from

the stage by several celebrities, including New York's Mayor Edward Koch and Wanda Tosi Canini Horowitz. The latter's presence was made less mysterious when, immediately thereafter, Horowitz himself made a surprise appearance, playing Chopin's C sharp minor Waltz, Op 64 No 2, and A flat Polonaise, Op 53. Also unannounced but less surprising was Leonard Bernstein's appearance, conducting the Philharmonic in his *Opening Prayer*, composed for the occasion (a slight, sombre work of seven minutes' duration, with a brief Hebrew text sung here in an understated manner by Kurt Ollmann).

Then Mehta returned to the rostrum, and events followed the written programme: Yo-Yo Ma in the finale of Haydn's C major Cello Concerto; Marilyn Horne and

James R. Oestreich reports from New York on the gala opening of the 'new' Carnegie Hall

Isaac Stern (whose role in the preservation and restoration of the hall was commemorated earlier in the day with the unveiling of a permanent plaque near the front doors) in "Erbarme dich" from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*; the *Meistersinger* Prelude; and after a series of songs by Frank Sinatra and the Peter Dinklage Orchestra - the finale of Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony, with Benita Valente, Horne and the New York Choral Artists.

Horowitz, Stern and Sinatra (just turned 71, and in his first major appearance following re-

ness and stridency that one simply does not recall from the "old" Carnegie, and the lower strings lacked solidity and power. But then Mehta's crude assault on this glorious movement (in, thankfully, one of his last appearances before taking a year-long sabbatical from the orchestra) was hardly a fair test.

Indeed - even leaving aside a multiplicity of extraneous noises produced by all manner of cameras, lights, microphones and cooling devices (CBS television, CBS Masterworks and the usual media hordes were dutifully taking it all down for posterity) - the entire evening produced so little musical distinction and refinement, so little that was well tuned and balanced, that no measured assessment of the acoustical renovation was really possible. Fortunately there will be plenty of time for that in this indomitable edifice, now, in any case, sturdier and more functional than ever.

Haunting in the ashes

Unlike Belle's Lord Lundy, I have never been "fair too freely moved to tears". Indeed in my role as radio critic I sit for the most part dry-eyed from one year's end to the next. It was in October 1983 that I was last driven to get out my handkerchief and that was for Shirley Gee's haunting tragedy of Northern Ireland, *Never In My Lifetime*. Anyway, last week it happened again and the occasion was Djordje Lebovic's *Searching for the Ashes* (Radio 4, Wednesday).

This documentary is in original form was the 1985 Italia Prize for Radio Belgrade. Here, translated by John and Rozka White and adapted by Isabel Aitken, it has been beautifully produced for English listeners by Louise Parlow. The programme consisted mainly of a compilation of notebooks and letters written by prisoners in Auschwitz, interspersed with extracts from the diary of Johann Krammer, the infamous camp doctor, and from statements made after his trial by the camp commandant, Rudolf Hoes. The prisoners were those who were forced to work in the Sonderkommando taking bodies from the gas chambers to the crematoria. The huge deposits of human ash offered an ideal hiding place for their writings, which they sealed in tins or bottles, knowing that one day the ash pits would be dug out.

So, after all we have heard of Auschwitz, Belsen, Dachau and the rest, what was there here to justify yet another account? And what is that account to make a hardened listener weep? It seemed to me that *Searching for the Ashes* conveyed more tellingly than anything I have heard or read or seen a sense of what the prisoners' life was like. Lebovic was himself a child in Auschwitz, one of the 30,000 who survived out of a total of four million, and he has had a hand in creating the camp's museum and archive, so he must have worked out of a deep factual knowledge and understanding. As to his material, the prisoners' records were extraordinarily restrained as if the writers knew that every precious, dangerous word must count. A quartet of Jewish actors (David de Keyser, Lee Montague, Allan Corbman, David Swift) echoed that restraint in their readings.

Set among them were the words of the tormentors and these in quite another way were unassertive. Dr Krammer generally details good meals and amusing entertainment, but gives hardly a hint of how

RADIO

he occupied his working hours. Hoes reflects that to separate mothers and children on their way to the gas chambers would have been "disturbingly inhuman" and is relieved that they did not have to shoot all those people in cold blood. Statistics note that the capacity of the gas chambers far exceeds that of the crematoria and tell us that each prisoner, kept alive for three months, shows a profit of 128 marks.

And so on: quietly, remorse-

lessly, the record builds up - of idealism run amok and reason perverted to support a monstrosity, yet strangely childish, inhumanity. Its effect upon the listener arose from those sharp juxtapositions, from that eloquent restraint in text and presentation and from a use of music that rarely seemed overdone and then only very slightly. To my mind all these elements combined to create both a radio classic and a lasting memorial to the Holocaust.

David Wade

THEATRE

An Italian Straw Hat Shaftesbury

The souvenir programme announces this to be "adapted from the original by Eugene Labiche", which is not in itself disturbing news since any play first produced in 1851 is likely to be given some gingering to suit the modern taste - the taste of producers, that is, who are reluctant to believe audiences could possibly laugh at the unaltered comedy of an-

other age, let alone another country.

The first stirrings of unease occur upon noticing a line in larger print: "Written and Directed by Ray Cooney". Now Mr Cooney is an author of many jolly shows (though not as many as M Labiche, who wrote 150) but, while he can be ingenious in building up panic in his simple characters, not even his best co-author would accuse him of possessing a light touch.

The Cooney treatment goes something like this: When in doubt, bring on a man with trousers round his ankles. Laughs slow in coming? Write in a prostitute and make her lift her feathery skirt to show

some black suspenders. Set in Paris, is it? Then put in a scene on top of the Eiffel Tower.

The original comedy is essentially a chase, with Fadinard (Tom Conti in this production), a young man-about-town, just managing for the first part of each scene to keep ahead of his pursuers, who then burst in upon him and have to be stalled and persuaded to let him go somewhere else where, ten minutes after he has reached it, they are on to him again.

Fadinard's horse has eaten a succulent hat of Italian straw, decorated with flowers, that a lady enjoying an assignation with a military man unwisely left dangling on a bush. She demands an instant replacement, which could hardly be more inconvenient, since Fadinard is about to be married and his wife to be, plus relatives, is due to arrive at any moment.

Off he goes in search of another straw hat and (in the original) a merry dance around Paris takes in a milliner's shop, a society salon and the hatless woman's husband's apartment (which the wedding guests mistake for a honeymoon hotel), until order is restored, delightfully and unexpectedly back outside the hero's apartment.

The characters of the original, however exaggerated, are firmly rooted in realism and likelihood. Replacing them with the products of a joke-book, with marriage registrars who confuse the wedding service and a funeral, with cameras that quaintly fail to take photographs, with jokes about members-in-law "She's so mean! Have you ever seen anyone carving a sprout?" - putting in this stale stuff is a grotesque error of judgement that not only wrecks the



Tom Conti, all wry or roguish asides, with the doddering uncle of Clive Dunn (photograph by Donald Cooper)

evening as a version of Labiche, which is sad enough, but cripples it as a comedy.

Instead of seeing Fadinard as the generator of energy, Tom Conti plays him as a leisurely creature, keeping one hand in his pocket, further slowing down any hope of fun with his unnecessary Italian accent, and relying for the comedy on wry or roguish asides to the audience, which produce decreasing comic return.

There are some ingenious stage tricks and countless

expensive settings. There are also some jolly moments. But, with the exception of Mark Hadfield's Stan Laurel of a valet, Clive Dunn's doddering uncle and Deborah Norton's regally horsey Baroness, the characters have been stripped of individuality and are just simple stock figures. It is significant that the scenes change around the actors, who stand still waiting for the furniture to settle. In a successful comedy it is people who move.

Jeremy Kingston



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SPECTRUM

Dissidents who count the days

Vladimir Filippov (right) is a prisoner in a Soviet labour camp because he is a practising Christian. While the West celebrates Andrei Sakharov's freedom, Caroline Moorehead reports on the hundreds who watch and wait



The news last week that the Soviet Union had ended the internal exile of its best-known dissident, Dr Andrei Sakharov, and had freed another dissident, Mustafa Dzhemilov, from a Siberian labour camp has raised hopes among human rights defenders everywhere that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's breeze of change is gathering force.

Yet Moscow's dwindling band of activists still at liberty are encouraged less by these headline-grabbing gestures than by almost imperceptible internal events: a television programme with a serious discussion about emigration; articles in newspapers critical of government policies; permission for a previously banned poet to give a public recital; the appointment of a controversial, non-party member to the editorship of *Novyi Mir*.

They need all the encouragement they can glean from these small signs. In the middle and late Seventies, with *démocratie* in the air and Helsinki in people's minds, human rights groups flourished briefly in the main cities of the Soviet Union, founded by people who were particularly brave, and others who reasoned that to support them was morally right. Not one group has effectively survived.

Not to conform is to be dissident; and dissidence comes in many forms, most of them punishable. To embark on a dissident path — refusing military service, signing peace petitions — has been to set foot on a road from which there can be no return. "The tragedy," said one young woman who chose the dissident way not long ago, "is that no activists see the fruits of their work — they are either in camp or in exile."

The *Chronicle of Current Events*, the samizdat journal which over 14 years became the single most comprehensive source of information on human rights violation in the Soviet Union, has been silent since its 64th and last issue appeared in 1982; two years ago, Yuri Shkhanovich, its editor, was sentenced to five years in a strict regime camp.

The Unofficial Committee to Investigate Political Abuse of Psychiatry in the USSR, set up in January 1977 to protest against the forcible

incarceration and drugging of political prisoners in psychiatric wards — many diagnosed as having "sluggish schizophrenia", a particular Soviet variation displaying no visible symptoms — has dissolved: of its eight founders, six have served camp sentences, one is in exile, and one still in labour camp.

The five unofficial Helsinki monitoring groups have all been broken up: 16 members are still in prison or psychiatric hospital. Vladimir Albrekt, the mathematician who became an underground crusading lawyer for the Moscow dissidents, has recently been resented, while still in a camp, to a second term for "malicious hooliganism", having reportedly refused to recant. Aged 50, he is ill and has lost 20 kilos. He has also been severely beaten.

Dissidents belong to no single cause or movement; their contacts are not so close nor their networks so efficient as those of the refuseniks, who are far easier to meet in Moscow. The dissident movement is by definition a very difficult animal. The refuseniks want only to leave, and because they are in constant touch with the West, and many speak English, their troubles are widely known. The campaigners for human rights — the freedom to publish, to meet, to move around, to practise their religion, to criticize — seek reform from within. They look for support at home and, fragmented and unsure, are easily overlooked.

Perhaps not surprisingly, it is precisely those who have courageously embraced both causes who have been most punished. Sharansky received a 13-year sentence for his outspokenness. Professor Naum Meiman, a crusader for human rights and the last remaining unofficial Helsinki monitor in Moscow, has never received a custodial sentence, but his story none the less tragic for that.

Meiman, a respected physicist, became involved in the Helsinki groups as they formed in the middle Seventies, rising to become the Moscow group's spokesman as other leaders vanished into the camps. He speaks with some pride of the days when foreign journalists filled his flat

to overflowing and Soviet ones stood warily in the hallway outside. "Between 1979 and 1982," he says, "we published 200 documents on all conceivable rights." But in September 1982, the Moscow group closed.

"Too many of the younger, newer people were being arrested. We had to stop them joining. It had become too dangerous."

During those years, Meiman was harassed only in small ways: often ill and very isolated, his flat was bugged, his mail confiscated, his phone cut. But then a more effective way was found to chastise him.

In 1980 Meiman married a university teacher of English. Within three years, Ina Meiman developed a cancerous tumour in her neck, touching the spine. In the Soviet Union there is as yet no laser equipment sensitive enough to remove it. The Meimans had invitations from surgeons in the West who

had the equipment and were willing to pay all costs, but for three years they could not get the permission to accept them, even for the few weeks that surgery would take. "It was," says Meiman, a gentle and distinguished man of 75, "a sort of murder."

Yesterday, however, they were told that Dr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, had given permission for Ina Meiman, who is now aged 53, to receive treatment abroad. The catch is that if she goes, she will not be allowed to re-enter the country; and her husband, who (like Dr Sakharov) is said to have had access to state secrets, will not be permitted to leave at all.

No one knows how many people are imprisoned in the Soviet Union today for their unacceptable views. Amnesty International has a figure of 600; Sharansky has spoken of 10,000, a figure now widely repeated

in the West, but which has to be taken with caution. Among the dissidents in Moscow and Leningrad, there is a feeling that numbers may be shrinking, as slowly people are emerging from the camps, while fewer new arrests are being made.

The monitoring of religious prisoners tends to be the most reliable, partly because of the concern of their parent churches, partly because Keston College in Kent, a private research institute which monitors the state of religious belief in Communist countries, keeps meticulous files — in August the college knew of 401 religious prisoners, 313 of them Christians.

The fortunes of believers in the Soviet Union have fluctuated wildly since the revolution. Today, their leaders are forced to register their congregations with the state, and by so doing they lose all rights to children other than their own, to appoint their own clergy and to decide the content of their sermons. Those who ignore these rules occasionally lose their own children, for they are considered unsuitable parents.

Many of the families of these prisoners live in the endlessly repeating breeze-block apartment buildings that stretch out from Moscow and Leningrad. Inside, the rooms are warm but small and sometimes shared with another family. They are colourless but not uncomfortable. Since most have disconnected phones, the practice is for visitors to arrive unannounced, explain that they come from friends, and then write down who they are in case the apartments are bugged.

Vera Zinchenko is the wife of the pastor of Moscow's unregistered Baptist congregation of some 100 people who refuse to accept the restrictions. For his pastoral work, and his Bible classes, Vladimir is serving three years in the camps.

To mark our talk, Vera put on a music tape on a very old machine. She spoke of 150 Baptists, men and women, in the labour camps; she said that Jesus was looking after her and that her neighbours were kind; and she showed me a rough newspaper about other imprisoned families. I asked if she would want to emigrate, should Vladimir not be allowed back to Moscow. She looked surprised. "I love my country," she replied. "I want to preach here."

One of the photographs she showed me was of Vladimir Filippov, an imprisoned dissident baptist from Leningrad. There, in another suburb, another identical block, apartment 485 at the end of the red metro line, I found Anna, his wife, mother of six, a round, short, equally cheerful woman.

She spoke no English, but putting her finger to her mouth to indicate caution, she produced a large box from under her bed and, talking, smiling, drew out some letters from baptists in Minnesota, full of prayers and concern, and a photograph of a pale boy playing a guitar. It was her son Andrei, like his father now in a labour camp.

One of the few remaining groups is the Trust Circle, a peace group established in June 1982 to "create a climate of international trust in which multilateral disarmament could be secured". Six of its founder members are in prison or psychiatric hospital; others are in exile.

And goodbye from him...

John Timpson is leaving his Today hot-seat on Christmas Eve. Libby Purves says her farewells

On Christmas Eve, for the last time, the fruitfully authoritative tones of John Timpson will growl "A very good morning to you", and then vanish forever from our sleepy grey dawns. It is, in a modest way, the end of an era in British radio.

Timpson has harrumphed away the early mornings alongside such diverse stablemates as Jack de Manio, Robert Robinson, Brian Redhead and — for three-and-a-half years in the late Seventies — me. Now his idiosyncratic jokes, punctuated with the inevitable basso "Ho-Ho!", will be heard no more: except, within decorous limits, on *Any Questions*.

Listeners to *Today*, a loyal and pugnacious bunch, are already loudly mourning his departure. The motorist who once wrote to him saying "I looked around me when you told that joke, and everyone

In traffic jams and elsewhere, lots of us will feel a loss

else in the traffic jam was laughing too", will feel a real loss in his life. Lots of us will.

He has not, of course, been on every single morning. In the old de Manio days, John did briefly have to get up at five every day of the week; but since then the *Today* rota has merely demanded of Timpson and Redhead, its central fixed stars, a three or four days a week presence. They have been supplemented by such voices as Peter Hobbday and Sue McGregor.

John's tenure has not even been continuous: during the disastrous experiment of the mid-Seventies when half the programme came from Manchester, half from London, and it was further split into short sections by a dreadful melée called "Up To The Hour", John Timpson was right out of it all for nearly two years, trying his luck at television with the revived *Tonight* programme.

Television did nothing for him, but turning back to his old job on a revived *Today* was only made bearable by the editor's depiction of John coming like a sort of King Arthur to save his old kingdom in its darkest hour. Brian Redhead was brought down from Manchester, and I joined them as a third voice.

You don't have to be friends, exactly, but a curious sort of symbiosis develops between co-presenters at that dim hour of day. "It's like an old marriage," says John. "Isn't it? You may bicker between yourselves, but nobody else is allowed to criticize either of you." Presenting *Today* is a complicated craft job: you must hit fixed time points with precision, cut off garrulous Ministers in time to get "Thought For The Day" on, think of quick one-liners to change the pace, without taking more than eight seconds over them.

Old, practised presenters get into grudgingly altruistic habits like scribbling corrections on one another's script: how many typists have sleepily put "now" instead of "not", and would have committed governments to improbable policies, had we not checked one another's scripts as well as our own? As Timpson said, reminiscing about the relationship, "You don't drop one another in it, do you? Unless, of course, you really mean to..."

He has worked far more with Brian Redhead lately, and there was something heartfelt about John's speech on receiving his solo, splendid surprise of the Sony Award for long-term services to broadcasting earlier this year. "I don't always get any of these," he said "without my little hairy friend beside me."

He is a BBC man of the old school: the Timpson generation of radio journalists rose through the ranks, developing its patina, emerging only in middle-age as front rank presenters. He had been a reporter, and a junior Court correspondent under the reverent leadership of Godfrey Talbot ("I like to think that as far as royal reporting went, I

was where the rot set in"); he was a *Newsdesk* man with Peter Woods, and then de Manio's junior partner.

He is a total professional: a straight, polite interviewer whose politics are publicly neutral. Above all, he is a purveyor of beautifully crafted jokes. The Timpson joke, even if it starts life as a feeble line stolen from a newspaper diary, is a wonderful thing: like a steam engine, all gleaming, finely engineered and well-oiled pistons, chuffing at a measured pace towards the final puff of smoke and "ho-ho!"

He has cross, grumpy, cantankerous mornings; but when, in the old days, I would be on the point of draining John with a waste-paper basket, some spontaneous but beautifully paced Timpson joke would disarm me. When we won the award given by Mary Whitehouse's Viewers and Listeners Association for being a good clean programme, someone said unkindly "That'll please your neighbours, John" (he was caricatured as archetypal Home Counties Man, in contrast to the archetypal young, Islington-dwelling producers).

John stirred his tea plac-



John Timpson: lonely dinners under BBC canteen lights

idly. "Ah yes," he said. "They'll be dancing in the streets in Chorleywood." Pause. "It'll be the veleta, mind you, but they'll be dancing."

All that is over now. Chorleywood is over, too: after 20 years, John and his wife Pat are moving back to Norfolk, and he will have a column in the paper he started his career on, the *Eastern Daily Press*. The Chorleywood house is sold, and for his last month on *Today* John has had an uneasy half-bachelor existence, staying in an hotel behind Broadcasting House and eating lonely suppers under the stark lights andinsel garlands of the BBC canteen. I

You get up early and drink gallons of very nasty coffee

asked him why, really why, he was off. "Had enough of getting up. Pat's had enough of my getting up. Just had enough." He is only 58, but *Today* takes its toll physically even on a three-day cycle. You get up very early, you drink gallons of nasty coffee, you have a whisky and a marmite sandwich at 9 am to revive you. Brian Redhead once said that if a normal person felt the way we felt by 10 every morning, he would see a doctor immediately.

"Quit while you're winning, I say," Timpson observes. "Mind you, I've said that once too often. The other day, at some gathering, I said it and some young man got up and said, 'What makes you think you're winning? You should have gone years ago.' And he laughed, a short bark of self-mockery. It is a sound I shall miss in the mornings."

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There's a lot of waste in a Karung. Being a water snake, it is a rather slender creature. As a result, cutting up its skin to make Filofaxes leaves an awkward and useless edge. Karung Filofaxes therefore cost £200 and upwards.

This does not worry David Collis, an affable 49-year-old. If he chose to make Filofaxes out of sharkskin with ostrich inserts he could sell them. After all, Steven Spielberg has a Filofax as a Brooke Shields and Mark Thatcher. Woody Allen has 20 and it was his former girlfriend Diane Keaton who thought of the idea for the change holder insert. Meanwhile in every London bistro the little leather files sit on lunch-time tables.

In 1980, Collis and his wife Lesley bought a small company called Norman & FHM. Annual turnover was about £100,000. Founded in 1921, it had begun by importing a personal filing system from the United States. A secretary, Grace Scurr, realised potential was being wasted and she persuaded the company to start manufacturing in Britain.

Karung: find it in your Filofax

Thus was established a curious little market niche among the clergy and the military. Both professions seemed to feel the need for a small, loose-leaf filing system with plenty of handy inserts like Church Family Records or Troop Commander's Bible. Back in 1959, Collis had bought one of the filing systems at Chisbols in Kingsway, the only London supplier, and wondered why they were not more widely available. Later he became a wholesaler as a sideline to his full-time job and then in 1980 was offered the company by the then owner, Joe Rider.

His belief was that the portable filing system idea could be widely marketed as a business tool. But he had

reckoned without the wave of organisation chic that was to sweep the market. In the 1980s it suddenly became fashionable to be efficient. Odd bits of office gimmickry swamped the Filofax, having been rejected by Harrods' stationery department, found its way into small leather goods and was instantly fallen upon by suppliers and Knightsbridge dames.

Last year the company turned over £5 million and is now planning to go public. The reasons are obvious enough — expansion while the Filofax name is still on top of the market.

Exports now account for one third of turnover and a new sales force, taken on 18 months ago, has spread the gospel all over England. Previously it was thought inconceivable that anybody in Bolton would spend £40 plus on a hand-made leather file.

Ahead, the product sells as high-quality and British. In Japan a Filofax book telling the Filofax company's history and listing dozens of Filofax anecdotes has sold 30,000 copies. Competitors are emerging all the time, the most powerful being Harper House in Los Angeles. At present, Collis and office complex on the far side of Barking in Essex. To feed demand and exploit Collis's ideas the company will have to grow bigger quickly. Yet it must also retain its smooth, up-market image as well as the vast range of inserts. It is these attributes which keep the Filofax Fraternity — a club formed in the United States — obsessed and spending.

Collis seems genuinely bemused by the company's success. "I bought it thinking it would be a nice little hobby. Perhaps I could expand its business sales. But there's no way you can say to yourself I think I'll start a cult."

On the table at which he speaks are the latest variations — a Zandra Rhodes Filofax, a whimsical Filofax and, yes, a sharkskin Filofax with ostrich inserts.

Bryan Appleyard

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The card that saves

Christmas greetings may be rescuing a peasant economy in distant Nepal



Nepal change: Laxmi Shobha and one of the cards that changed the lives of thousands

Laxmi Shobha is disabled, not badly, but enough to make working with the other women in the fields at the foot of the Himalayas too onerous. There was a time when her only prospect was to remain at home, dependent on the charity of her ageing parents. Now she has a job. She may have made one of the Christmas cards on your mantelpiece.

Laxmi is one of 2,000 Nepalese peasants who have been given not only a job but a new way of life by a greeting cards project. The project begins with shrubs that grow at altitudes of between 6,000 and 10,000 feet on the northern slopes of the Himalayas and raises money to finance clean water systems, health centres, schools and secondary income-generating schemes in one of the poorest countries in the world.

The greetings card factory, started by Unicef in 1981 in the ancient town of Bhaktapur to the east of Kathmandu, exported eight million rupees (about £250,000) worth of hand-made cards and paper this year.

The project grew out of a set of problems. In a country which was already more than 90 per cent dependent upon a fragile agriculture, two of the country's traditional industries had been in decline for a generation and were threatened with extinction. Papermaking had been one of the proudest of traditional Nepalese crafts since the 11th century. The technique had changed little until the Chinese Cultural Revolution in 1969, when many of the monasteries which had bought the paper — they used it for copying scriptures — were closed and the papermakers' market disappeared almost overnight.

At first the papermakers persisted in the hope of finding new markets but the

deprivations of middlemen and moneylenders forced many to abandon their craft. Then the introduction of machine-made paper from India satisfied demand.

There was a similar story from the wood-block printers whose hand-carved blocks were traditionally used to print patterns on the locally woven cloth, which was the mainstay of the indigenous textile industry. Their old skills were made redundant by imported machine-printed cloth.

Unicef fieldworker, Kathleen Peterson, first saw the

A market that vanished almost overnight

advantages of reviving the two industries in a card printing project. The result has been not only revitalization of the old crafts but the creation of organizational skills among the communities which have changed other aspects of life in the remote uplands. The *lokta* gatherers who took advantage of low-cost credit and conservation training have used their new organisational skills and profits to build clean-water drinking systems in a country where only 11 per cent of the population has access to uncontaminated water.

The rural papermakers have used their profits to build

outlying child-care centres, a community health system and schools. They have also established water systems and plantations for wood fuel.

In the Bhaktapur workshop, which provides jobs for 46 women and 42 men, the workers have established a co-operative style of management. A code of practice ensures that a certain percentage of the workforce must be disabled and that only one member of a family can be employed so that the benefits are spread throughout the community.

"The factory has changed my life," said Laxmi, who has worked in the paper-folding room since the factory opened. "Now I no longer live with my parents. I have married one of the printers here and we have just built our own house with a loan from the factory's staff credit fund."

Under its new general manager, Bishnu Shrestha, a young Nepali who trained in the British and German printing industries, the factory has recently expanded its capacity from 140,000 to 200,000 cards a year. The cards produced on the factory's mottled ivory coloured paper feature traditional Nepalese designs. They have no greeting inside so they can be used all year round. But the message of self-determination each one carries needs no words.

Paul Valley

Bhaktapur Craft Printers cards are available at Unicef, 1 Kings Road, Chelmsford CM1 1EP (Tel: 0245 84622)

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FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY

حديقة من الامم

MONDAY PAGE

Why the credit card deck is stacked

How is it possible for people to run up so much debt so quickly? Lee Rodwell went shopping for high street credit and collected £8,000 worth of it with amazing ease. Trouble is, she could never pay it all back

Tomorrow, if I wished, I could go on a Christmas shopping spree to the tune of nearly £8,000. I have not had a win on the pools or cleaned up on the Stock Market. I have acquired a clutch of credit cards, most of them from shops.

With them, I can put petrol in the car and have it serviced, redecorate the house, buy clothes for myself and the children, stock the larder, buy presents for the whole family and goodness knows what else.

Yet I know that if I used these cards to their limits, I simply could not afford even the minimum monthly repayments (which would add up to around £400 a month and, given the interest charged on the outstanding debt, would do little to reduce the overall amount owed).

Three years ago the National Consumer Council called for a review of multiple credit card use, pointing out that the brake on excessive spending provided by a card's limit was effectively removed when people were issued with several cards. Yet since then, the pressures have increased for people to have multiple cards.

At present, store cards are a relatively small section of the total credit market. According to figures released by the Trustee Savings Bank, bank-issued credit cards account for 19.4 million of the 25 million plastic cards in use, and store cards for five million.

But the store card proportion is growing. It is a situation which worries experts like Ann Andrews, of the Money Advice Centre in Birmingham, and joint author of

How to Cope With Credit and Deal With Debt

She says: "I am concerned about the way credit is pushed at customers — one chain employs hostesses whose sole job is to open credit accounts for people. They are on a low basic salary and get commission for each account. Other stores operate some kind of bonus system for staff.

"The trouble with credit is that it erodes your normal common sense about money. It is made to look easy, attractive. If a store says you can have credit, you think that if they say it's all right it must be all right."

The application forms for some of the cards ask for a list of regular

'Despite calls for review, the pressures have increased for people to have multiple cards'

outgoing payments such as mortgages. They all ask for a list of other credit cards held. But shoppers can apply for a batch of new cards all at the same time, as I did, so there is no way of knowing for certain whether an applicant is likely to get too far into debt.

Credit companies usually refuse to explain exactly how they determine an applicant's credit-worthiness. But as a general principle, the companies use statistics to work out which kind of people have proved to be good or bad payers. When a potential client fills in

the questionnaire on an application form, each "good" or "bad" answer is given a score. The total score enables a company to assess the probable payment performance.

The company may also check with a credit reference agency to see if the potential client has been a bad payer in the past, or if he or she already uses store credit cards.

On paper, I looked a good bet when I applied for the new cards — an owner-occupier in my late thirties, with no record of bad debt, used to coping with credit (I

have an Access and an American Express card), with a bank account, a husband, two children and a job.

But although I earn a good income as a self-employed journalist, I declined to fill in details about my husband's employment, and while admitting that I paid a certain amount out each month for the mortgage and the rates there was no space on the form for the other demands on my income — paying the bills, buying food and clothes, running a car and so on.

which includes Selfridges, John Lewis, Miss Selfridges and Olympus Sports, wanted the name and address of my accountants so that they could get a reference from them. Everyone else was prepared to take my word for it.

In fact, Fenwick at Brent Cross asked for no information at all about my salary and when they sent me their Personal Account card, they did not indicate a spending limit.

Given that the details asked for on all the forms were much the

same, there were surprising differences in the amount of credit allocated to me.

Some companies invited me to apply for a particular amount and presumably bore my request in mind when they set the credit limit. Others simply told me how much credit I could have.

With the Mothercare Storecard, which can also be used at any of the Storehouse group of companies — British Home Stores, Habitat, Richards and Heals — I was told that my limit was £600. Yet, with far less information to go on, Fenwick felt I was good for £1,000.

I asked for £1,500 at Marks and Spencer and got it. My local department store, Owen Owen gave me the £1,000 I specified, as did Harrods and Renault (you can use their Custom Card for petrol, accessories, parts, servicing and car rental at any Renault dealer displaying the Renault Custom sign).

But Harvey Nichols decided £1,000 credit was too high and set the limit at £750, while Laura Ashley knocked it down even

'Only one company wanted the name of my accountants. The rest just took my word for it'

further to £600. Even so, I was able to add eight cards to my existing Access card, bringing the total amount of credit available to me to £7,940. Tempting, to say the least.

A number of the companies who run their own in-store credit card operations belong to the Finance Houses Association. Its deputy secretary, Alistair MacDonald, says: "We think that the best protection against over-commitment is the establishment of a National Credit Register.

major credit companies like Barclaycard and Access would feed information in. We have also wondered whether local authorities and public utilities might be involved in this."

Mr MacDonald feels that the multiple use of credit cards is not a big problem at present. But he adds: "If the National Credit Register does not develop, then I am not sure I would have such a relaxed and sanguine attitude."

Meanwhile, Ann Andrews says that some stores who run credit card schemes could do more to check their customers' financial circumstances. She says: "If they asked for more information about income and outgoings, not only would they eliminate people who are dishonest but it would make everyone think a little more carefully about what they are getting into."

"They should also look at the way they treat people who fall into arrears. On the one hand you have people marketing the cards as if there is no tomorrow... and on the other hand there are the arrears staff really kicking you if things go wrong."

She says people should think twice before taking up a shop's offer of instant credit. "When it comes to using credit cards people tend not to think about the interest rate they will be paying. It is crazy that people will shop around for ages to find the best price for a washing machine, but they won't shop around for the credit to buy it with."

"The rates on credit cards are high — many people would be better off with a personal loan from their bank. The trouble is that when you buy on credit you gamble with your future ability to pay. People don't think their marriage will break down or they will lose their job. But these things happen."

Somebody pass the scissors.

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How to Cope With Credit and Deal With Debt (Unwin Paperbacks, £2.95)



A star possessed of high anxiety

The publicity officer at the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester, where Natasha Richardson is performing in *High Society*, has obviously got her hands full. "Whatever you do, don't show Natasha that you've got a copy of the programme. She can't bear what it says about her." She pauses and looks round apprehensively. "Natasha will be along in a minute. It usually takes her a while to get ready."

In fact, when she finally appears, having readied herself for the photographer, she looks natural and unaffected. "Where do you want to do the photographs? In my dressing room? Right, follow me." As we approach her dressing room, she pauses at the door and seems momentarily embarrassed. "Please give me a minute. It's like inviting someone into your bedroom."

Inside, she is very anxious not to give the wrong impression. She catches my glance at several half-drunk bottles of wine and quickly says, "They're not mine. I share this with five other people. This is my end of the room."

Natasha Richardson — daughter of Vanessa Redgrave and Tony Richardson — has a surprisingly formidable presence. At times she seems shy,

With *High Society* about to reach London, upwardly mobile Natasha Richardson is set to take another step on the ladder

almost embarrassed by the interest being shown in her. At others, she is very self-assured and relaxed, pleased to be the centre of attention. She is aware of the effect she has on people, but not quite sure yet how to exploit it to her best advantage.

"It's very easy to be distracted by success", she says. "Things have gone so well I feel incredibly lucky. I get this sick feeling sometimes and think that everything will start going horribly wrong."

She went to the Central School of Speech and Drama in 1980, and got her first professional acting job at Leeds Playhouse in 1983. After performing in three plays in as many months she earned her theatrical spurs and obtained an Equity card.

After that she was Helena in the Hyde Park production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Ophelia in *Hamlet* at the Young Vic. Her first break came in 1985.

"My first big part was playing Nina in Charles Sturridge's production of *The Seagull*. Nina is one of the best parts for young actresses. It was wonderful because when it was re-cast my mother got the main female lead, and I was able to act with her alongside John Hurt. Working with Charles Sturridge (he directed *Brideshead Revisited*) and people of the calibre of John Hurt and my mother was incredibly, what's the word...?" She throws up her hands, unable to express the sheer enormity of the experience. It was clearly a young actress's dream.

After *The Seagull* she got her first television role, a part in ITV's *Sherlock Holmes* series, and went on to her first film, the about-to-be-released *A Month in The Country*. Most recently, she played Frankenstein's creator, Mary Shelley, in Ken Russell's *Gothic*.

"I'm not naked at all", she hastens to say. "I managed to keep my clothes on all the time. You see a bit of leg and a



Natasha Richardson: yes, connections tend to open doors

lot of arm and that's it. *Gothic* was an incredibly gruelling experience. At the end, Ken said, 'Well, you've survived' and that's just about how I felt."

She didn't experience much difficulty adapting from the stage to the screen. "When you do film work, it's much more focused. It's like that — she presses her hands tightly to-

gether by her forehead, fingers pointing outwards, and screws up her eyes — rather than that" — she throws out her arms, wide, like a swan. "But I enjoy both."

Playing Tracey Samantha Lord in *High Society*, she is aware of the responsibility of stepping into Katherine Hepburn and Grace Kelly's shoes. "I think one of the most

important things to get right, apart from the singing and dancing of course, is the American accent. I can't hear phoney American accents."

All her life she has been aware of being better-connected than most and, despite her obvious talent, makes no attempt to deny the advantages this has given her.

"When I started, being who I was certainly opened a lot of doors." For the time being, however, she remains stubbornly unmoved by the star-studded world she is poised to enter.

"I'm really not that interested in money. Money would never affect a decision of mine about work. If I was interested in fame and money (she spits it out with disgust) I'd be not-footing it to Dallas and Dynasty." So she'd prefer to be Joan Collins? "I'd prefer to be Natasha Richardson."

Being Natasha Richardson obviously involves not getting too above herself or growing up too fast. The other day, she and her co-star, Steven Rat, were having supper at the Leicester Holiday Inn when she saw Veronica Howell sitting at the next table.

"I started getting very excited and pointing and saying: 'Look, look, it's that woman from *Hill Street Blues*.' Steven just told me to shut up and stop being such an idiot. But I can't help it. I don't know what I'd do if I met Michael Caine. I'd probably faint."

Toby Young

Twins need not be double trouble

TALKBACK

From Joan Parkes, Ockman Lane, Rye, East Sussex.

I refer to Josephine Fairley's *Twining Ways* (Wednesday Page, December 10).

My twins were born at home in 1955. I had a very easy labour — three hours in all — and they were born at 12.30 and 12.40 am weighing six pounds each. Their sister was 16 months old, and I had two other daughters aged 8 and 12. I also had a job, working for a GP and living in a flat over the surgery.

I had a school-leaver as mother's help, a cleaning lady, and a writer-husband who helped a lot. I was extremely lucky to have been able to breast feed them — simultaneously, little heads tucked under each arm.

Life had to be strictly scheduled right from the first day, and I must stress that this would not have been possible had I not followed the regime of Sir Truby King, now looked down upon.

The day began at about 5.30 am, feeds were given at four hour intervals, and I was able to return to my job. I'm not saying they didn't cry between meals, but they were never fed, just picked up, cuddled, and put down again.

Very harsh, according to modern day teaching, but I was able, with help, to continue to enjoy my job, to write

one or two children's stories, and to experience great pleasure in their babyhood.

From Hilary M. Macklin, Buckhaven, Fife.

There is a perfectly good reason for the Army's reluctance to allow its female officers to have children and keep their jobs (Maternity and the Military, Monday Page, December 15).

The Army is there to defend the country in the event of war. That defence would surely be terribly impaired if some of our officers were lying in a maternity ward, holding babies in their arms.

I do not make this point lightly. As we all know, pregnancy causes considerable changes in the nature and temperament of new mothers, the effects of which may last years, if not permanently. These changes may impair soldiering ability to a perilous degree.

I would also suggest that becoming pregnant is a terrible waste of years of precise and vital training. I am not against any young women suddenly feeling the urge to start a family before her Army career is over, but she ought to see the day she acts on that urge as being the end of her job in the forces.

A friend has asked me to look after her elderly mother for a few days. Thus, in a flash, it occurred to me that my contemporaries are no longer of an age to ask me to mind their children for a bit, the said children now being old enough to wear designer stables and engagement rings.

I enjoyed the era of community child-care since, as everyone knows, you can take a child anywhere as long as it's out. The brat who, at home, eats bananas with tomato ketchup and hangs his clothes on the floor turns into little Prince Charming as soon as he is off-loaded on to somebody else. I always found it incredible, when collecting a child of mine from a neighbour, to learn that he used the grape-scorers with aplomb and insisted on doing his homework.

Some streets, especially those in NW1, got things so brilliantly organized that no parents ever had to be at home with their own insufferably offspring but were always babysitting at a friend's house where the resident children, faced with a mother who didn't belong to them, were perfectly angelic and quite often asleep.

I have heard that this neighbourly child-watch scheme came to an end when parents on the regular babysitting rota, bored with not having to sort out previous bodily sibling rivalry and prize a screaming six-year-old away from *Dallas*, started

Farming out the family



PENNY PERRICK

getting restless and peeked in desk drawers and bedside cupboards.

Nevertheless, the child-go-round schemes remain an indispensable aid to sane motherhood and I hope that, now I am qualified to take part in the mother-go-round arrangement, sanity will continue to prevail. My hopes of this are high since elderly adults, like small children, are much easier to have around when released from the bosom of their immediate family.

As the years roll by, people

tend to tell the same stories over and over again. This is tiresome for an audience that is always in attendance since it already knows the punchline. Yet aged parents, like provincial comedians, can find love and appreciation wherever they go, as long as they are sent out on a permanent tour.

One reason why I shall be happy to supervise other people's parents is that we don't share a history of mutual misdeeds. I am still slightly miffed at my own mother because, when I was five she bought me a camel-coloured coat instead of the cherry-red one I coveted. And I don't think she's forgiven me for not being made a school prefect.

Other people's parents always compare me unfavourably with their own grown-up children. My own mother thinks I wear peculiar clothes and that I spot the most unsuitable man in the world at a hundred paces and make straight for him. My friends' mothers think that I am a fashion original and know *such* interesting people.

It is all rather like the old child-sharing days when one's daughter would report that Henrietta's mother made all the doll's house furniture herself even though she was a full-time brain-surgeon. One could handle this with perfect equanimity since the chances were that Henrietta was telling her mother that you could tap-dance and make chocolate icing at the same time.

Is there anybody in there?

Phones madden, but are machines the sanest answer?

My telephone answering machine threw a fit the other day, malevolently blowing raspberries and refusing to turn itself off. The painter, whom I had left slap-happy and singing at the top of a step ladder, was reduced to a state of near-speechless fury by this ear-splitting version of the Chinese water torture. The simple expedient of hitting the "off" switch did not occur to him.

Most people still treat answering machines like electronic prima donnas, to be approached only with extreme caution. At the sound of the "beep" they either clam up entirely or carefully adopt the kind of stilted tones normally reserved for addressing elderly deaf aunts. The most coherent message I ever received was a whole tape full of intricate details about central heating services — directed to someone else. The poor chap was obviously so busy not being intimidated by my machine he had neglected to notice it was the wrong name and number.

Be all that as it may, answering machines may lurk in many a Christmas box this year. No-one knows exactly how many of the things are currently in use, but British Telecom puts the figure at somewhere around 300,000, which leaves plenty of scope for the marketing men. BT's own range includes the Robin

at £99.96 ("When you're out, the Robin's in"), and the more sophisticated Kingfisher at £165, offering a "high-flying combination of up to the minute technology and sleek looks" according to the publicity blurb. Alternative models — mostly imported — are now widely available from discount shops.

When I got myself wired up, my family was deeply scornful. My father, who has only recently accepted the telephone as a necessary evil, left messages so clipped and businesslike I did not recognize him. Everyone else, who took its presence as a personal affront, flatly refused to use it on the assumption that I was simply too lazy to answer myself. I confess to using it occasionally in the bath — no more soggy telephone directories and frozen feet — or at the children's bedtime, when the noise reaches levels unacceptable to any Factory Inspectorate.

But mostly, the intention is to use it for work except that I often forget to turn it on. And no system has yet been devised sophisticated enough to cope with that particular problem.

United States, answering machines are an essential. Many people leave them permanently switched on to screen out unwanted callers, cutting in only if they want a "real" conversation. When Mark Thatcher's engagement to Texan car dealer's daughter Diane Bergdorf was announced, his future in-laws used the family machine to leave a "We're delighted" message for reporters. Among media types, the latest fad is to leave a message recorded by a famous actor — preferably one with a sexy voice.

Answering machines are marketed as part of a hectic upward and outwardly mobile lifestyle. The brochure for the Apollo 4000 Answercall "for people going places" features the departing backs of a young couple, she with soft-focus hennaed hair, he with Hawaiian shirt and an aggressively muscular grip on his sports bag. They bristle with importance.

Until someone invents an answering machine that really answers back, it will be a long time before they are fully accepted in this country. My painter should know. He had one once, but abandoned it after it chewed up its tape and offended all his old lady customers. Now he uses his wife.

Sally Dugan

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THE TIMES DIARY

Greetings on the House

After my revelations about the "Ulster Says Noel" festive missives sent out by Sammy Wilson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, I hear that not all his Loyalist colleagues think quite the same. Despite their boycott of Westminster, some Unionist opponents of the Hillsborough agreement are sending the House of Commons official Christmas card to their constituents. One exception is Harold McCusker, deputy leader of the Official Unionists, who in this respect finds himself at odds with his Democratic Unionist counterpart, Peter Robinson, and his leader, James Molyneux. He tells me: "I have no intention of associating myself with such a charade. Why should I take advantage of the House of Commons facility when I haven't sat in the place for more than a year?"

In the red

Jeffrey Archer's resignation as Tory vice-chairman is proving expensive to the host of Conservative associations who had booked him as the star attraction for their annual dinners. In marginal Richmond and Barnes, where the dinner is the year's biggest fundraising event, the whole shebang has been shelved. One Tory insider tells me the Archer withdrawals could cost local organizations throughout the country thousands of pounds — at a time when all want to stock their coffers for an election campaign.

On the list

Peter Walker and his PPS, Stephen Dorrell, are employing curious tactics to keep the Young Conservatives wet. Last week Dorrell booked a room in the Palace of Westminster to twist the arms of disaffected wets from the Federation of Conservative Students into joining the Greater London Young Conservatives, which, to Walker's dismay, has become the preserve of the Tory right. I fear this particular attempt at moist extravaganza may be foiled, for an alert right-wing researcher had booked the room next door, and, for future reference, noted the names of all present.

Challenge

The usually dynamic Richard Branson will be remarkably still in the New Year. Following the example of the late Lord Shawcross, he is to have his portrait painted by the 82-year-old Waldron West, with the £1,500 fee going to the Royal Marsden Hospital's development appeal. In Shirewell's case the donation was generously inflated by cheques from members of the House of Lords and the Commons, among them Mrs Thatcher. Will she do the same for her blue-eyed anti-litter boy?

BARRY FANTONI



"Not another Alliance split..."

Hope abandoned

Father Michael Winter, a prominent member of the Movement for the Ordination of Married Men for the past ten years, is resigning from the priesthood. "After slaving away all this time, he has been very disappointed by the lack of response from Catholic bishops," said Father Michael Gaine, chairman of the movement. Could it be that Father Winter, now a lecturer at the Anglican Chichester Theological College, has personal reasons, not unconnected with the campaign, to abandon his vow of celibacy? He is not saying.

Flying high

Lebanese embassy officials, who have represented Syrian interests in London since the post-Hindawi expulsion of the Syrian ambassador, are flying their country's flag above the Syrian embassy in Belgrave Square. With 25,000 Syrian troops occupying parts of Lebanon, they are claiming that the embassy is the only part of Syria under Lebanese occupation.

Head start

A little-known bust of the late Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, has been given a new more secure home in a park near Wimbledon Common. Until now it has been hidden beneath a leafy mulberry bush in a secluded corner of the park, arousing fears that it might prove too tempting a target for trophy-hunting Rastafarians. The Rasta penchant for objects linked with the Emperor, who is revered as the Messiah in the West Indian-based religion, has led to at least one court case over stolen library books. The bust in question dates from Selassie's flight to Britain from the Italian invaders 50 years ago, and was originally housed at the nearby home of his friends, the Selassie family.

A master plan for planning

by Geoffrey Rippon

Planning inquiries are falling into disrepute. The protracted agony of the Sizewell inquiry — the report is now reaching ministers four years after it began — must never be repeated. Law and procedure need drastic revision to remove delay. At the same time, environmental protection must not only be retained but strengthened.

Zeal for reform has gathered momentum. The House of Commons select committee on the environment concluded that planning delays do severe damage to the economy. Michael Heseltine, while Secretary of State for the Environment, estimated that £8 billion is locked up in local authority filing cabinets. More recently, a DoE minister, Lord Elton, concluded that delays to appeals in writing alone cost Britain £300,000 a week.

Here are ten proposals for clearing the logjam.

● A new Planning Act to consolidate and amend present legislation, orders, regulations and government circulars which have long been treated as law. A clutter of secondary legislation can be swept away.

● Annual white papers would set out the government's current planning policies (much as the Budget sets out fiscal policies), and spell out measures to make land available for housing, employment and other purposes.

● The wide consensus that the time has come to end not only structure plans but also all other statutory plans should be headed. Advisory local plans, annually reviewed, would guide development control.

● It would be a cardinal principle of the new Act that a planning authority must approve an application unless it would do demonstrable environmental damage. The Act would exclude objections based on private proprietary rights which Common Law, and not planning law, should protect.

● The Act would adopt a proposal for "deemed consents" made by the 1975 Dobry Report in order to cure planning permission delays. Of the present 400,000-600,000

applications each year, some 86 per cent are eventually approved, but only two thirds are determined within the eight weeks required by statute. A new law should provide that if an applicant hears nothing within 42 days, he has permission.

● Computerization of the planning process is long overdue.

● The number of planning appeals climbs steadily each year. The Commons select committee proposal for the award of costs as a penalty is a good one and reform should go further and create compensation awards for injurious delay.

● I support Lord Denning's plan for three-person planning tribunals in place of the present planning inspectorate. Two members of the tribunal would represent local interests — one from industry or business and the other from an environmental group — with the chairman drawn from the ranks of the planning inspectors.

● The inordinate duration of the

small number of major inquiries like Sizewell has brought planning into disrepute. Three changes would help: prior publication by the government of policy guidelines; a statutory timetable for preliminary proceedings and robust statutory powers for a "commissioner" — an inspector with a High Court judge's powers to maintain the momentum of the proceedings.

● Objectors should receive planning aid. The government has resisted this change but the case for it rests not only on justice but also on efficiency. Professional assistance in preparing and processing an objector's case should make for faster inquiries. With charges for planning permissions now bringing in £42 million a year, the government should be able to afford it.

The remedies for the mischiefs that have emerged over the last 40 years have been analysed in detail over and over again. All that is necessary is the will to act.

Offices Newspapers Ltd 1986
The author, Conservative MP for Hexham, was Environment Secretary, 1972-74.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



The last dig of winter — of a peepshow that should never resume

Let the moors keep their grisly secrets

tion in impenetrable secrecy, apart from a fortnight spent announcing it in advance and the 40 television cameras, 400 journalists and 14,000 spectators milling around the scene, we are left with nothing but guesswork.

Then there is the legal side of the business. Opinions have been solemnly canvassed as to what would or should follow, as far as the law is concerned, if bodies were to be found. Could the two convicted murderers be charged with further crimes and, if convicted, sentenced to life imprisonment? It seems that the answer to both questions is yes, but nobody has yet explained what purpose would be served by staging a new production of the original trial or by sending to prison people who are already there.

This shoddy Grand Guignol will not find so much as the bone of a little finger unless Ploeg, gazing up at the fleets of helicopters taking pictures of him, should stumble and fall into a hole that turns out to be a grave. Nor will it contribute in any way to the question of what should be done with Myra Hindley, let alone suggest any general principles about dealing with such people. The show should never have begun, and the curtain should be rung down upon it, in perpetuity, now, except for a one-act bill, to be pushed through Parliament as soon as possible, making it a

serious offence for any policeman ever to appear on television.

But all the foregoing still leaves out the most important — the only important — lesson to be learnt from this chilling series of official blunders. What good purpose could have been served even if bodies had been found? Ignore the fact that the bodies by now would be crumbling skeletons; they would still be human remains, and it might be possible for them to be identified. Suppose they were; suppose we could match a name to each pitiful heap of dust so cruelly abused 20 years before. I must yet ask: *cui bono?*

The unassuaged grief of the surviving relatives of the murderers' victims is not to be tampered with; no comment. The desire for revenge which still possesses some of them must be handled with great care by us who have not known a loved life so brutally cut short. I believe, and always shall, that a thirst for vengeance, however justified, is the most tragic and stupefying cause of death that human beings can enter. But then, I have never had such cause, or anything approaching it, to think thoughts of revenge. I have met Jews whose every relative died in the Holocaust, yet who, though they have never expunged the pain from their hearts, have cleansed themselves utterly from hate. But no one can demand that others should rise to such heights of wisdom and

charity, and sickening though I found the picture in which a relative of one of the Moors victims was brandishing a knife and looping to use it on Myra Hindley, it would be pointless, as well as intolerably presumptuous, for me to rebuke him for such feelings.

I am emphatically of the opinion that whatever pleas there were, from the relatives, for the moors to be dug over, with or without Miss Hindley in attendance, should have been kindly but firmly denied, and I would remain of that opinion even if the ensuing evidence had not degenerated into a repulsive peepshow. For is not an unmarked grave in soil troubled only by wind and rain, storm and snow, as good as any plot in a crowded cemetery? "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." If that is true, be sure that it is true for those whose last resting place is unknown to mortal man, just as much as for those who lie in marble and the gilded monuments of princes, or beneath the simplest moss-grown slab in a churchyard. "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?" If that is true, is it likely that children done vilely to death will be ignored in the final reckoning, wherever they are buried?

Whatever happens, or should happen, to Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, their victims can gain nothing from it. So much is obvious, less obvious but no less true is that the victims' families cannot gain by it either. The dead need no advice; would that someone could persuade the living that they have simply discharged their duty to the dead, even the missing dead, and can now throw off the chains with which they have hitherto bound themselves to dwell in the tragic past of death, and turn their faces towards life and the future.

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Michael Meadowcroft

Act of faith for the Alliance

Christmas cheer: Owen and Steel will, I hope, be a pleasant family occasion, but I doubt that it will be entirely non-political. I therefore offer a few thoughts for the approaching season of election jockeying.

Political commentators have taken a rather blinkered view of the opinion polls in recent months. Feed the raw figures into the computer and it will produce a prediction of an immediate election result. But polling day will not be tomorrow; nor will the relative positions of the parties necessarily stay constant under the spotlight of an election campaign.

Moreover, the polls themselves influence the public's perception of the eventual result and thus provide the material for sophisticated arm twisting. The Alliance, if it reads the polls right, could be the main beneficiary of this opportunity.

The received truth is that Liberals do better with the Tories in office. This certainly reflects the Liberals' long-standing view of the Conservatives as our enemy and Labour as our competitor. For more than 40 years we have been frustrated to see Labour getting away with the pretence of being a progressive movement committed to spreading power and to maximizing equal opportunities.

That position has been steadily eroded over the past decade as Labour has become more and more clearly identified as a party that sublimates individual aspiration and community expression to centralized economic control. Its current record in local government and its national programme have demonstrated the real nature of Labour today.

There is no great public fondness for this government, nor confidence in its ability to show compassion for the increasing number of people in need. But despite this, and in the face of a succession of damaging events, there is a growing resignation to the possibility of a third successive Conservative election victory. It is remarkable that, in its seven years in opposition, Labour has not been able to sustain any significant lead in the polls.

It is this fact, plus the poll evidence for the belief that Labour will not win, that gives the Alliance its great opportunity. Certainly the Alliance's own ratings are way below what would otherwise be regarded as take-off point, but the clear message of the polls is that there is a huge opportunity for a political movement that can both demonstrate its ability to take on the Conservatives and be regarded as "safe". Certainly at by-elections, local and parliamentary, where real ballots have been substituted for opinion polls, there has been no reluctance to support Alliance candidates.

The Alliance leadership needs to focus its appeal far better if this opportunity is to be grasped.

moreover... Miles Kington

All you need at Christmas

You might imagine that everything is closed on Christmas Day, making it impossible to shop or get help with urgent Christmas problems. Not at all. Plenty of places are open — it's just a question of knowing where to turn. Here is a check list of problems, and how to get each cleared up.

Last Minute Shopping. You wake up on Christmas Day and suddenly remember that you haven't got a present for your wife, who is coming to lunch, indeed who is lying beside you at that very moment thinking about lunch. Don't despair. Your local filling station is open for this very purpose, selling the most unusual gifts such as wheelbarrows, summer garden furniture, sacks of potatoes and rose urelises. If she wouldn't like any of those, have you thought of buying her petrol? **Board Game Disputes.** There is always some point on Christmas Day when people come to blows over the rules of some new board game. If not, they certainly come to blows over the interpretation of Monopoly rules, the only copy of which disappeared in 1979. It isn't generally known that the British Board Game Authority runs a 24-hour telephone service to deal with queries of this kind. If you ring up and say: "My wife, who has been tense and on edge ever since I gave her a large sack of potatoes for Christmas, now insists that she can build houses on Liverpool Street Station. Could you arbitrate, please?", it will be glad to do so. Your wife will then go ahead and build houses on Liverpool Street Station.

Lack of Batteries. The biggest Christmas problem of all, whether you are opening a new model car or simply trying to cast some illumination on your Christmas crib, is that batteries are never supplied. Well, the landlord of your local is almost certain to have some for sale under the brewery's new Christmas scheme — *Stock Batteries and Get the Punters In On Christmas Day.* If he hasn't you can always have a drink and forget about it. Alternatively, buy presents which don't need batteries, such as a sack of potatoes. **Unwanted Supermarket Trolleys.** While you are enjoying your warm, family Christmas, spare a thought for supermarket trolleys, many of whom have to spend the holiday period in the open, unwanted, and homeless. In

Liberals and SDP alike have too readily assented to the pundits' view that Alliance gains are far more likely to come from the Tories, particularly in the south and west of England. Certainly the electorate is more sophisticated than many believe in identifying how best to use its vote tactically — something that will benefit the Alliance in such areas.

There is, however, a more seductive appeal to voters who would otherwise tend to be Labour. What is the point of maintaining an emotional tie to a party which not only seems unlikely to defeat the Tories but is unwilling to contemplate that post-election co-operation that could end Mrs Thatcher's rule and might bring a far more progressive and practical coalition into office? At least Harold Wilson was honest when he said in June 1985, "If I can't have a Labour government to live under I'd prefer to have a Conservative government to live under."

The paradox of Labour's "all power or no power" stance is that it opens up Labour seats to Alliance attack. The Alliance needs to elbow Labour out of the way in order to take on the Conservatives far more comprehensively than Labour's narrow appeal ever can. Time is desperately short but the political opening is there.

It is not just a question of different words on leaflets or on television but an awareness that to appeal to that large constituency that is at one and the same time progressive but suspicious of extremes requires a radicalism that both challenges and reassures. It is precisely this balance that characterizes Liberal values and which has been taken into the Alliance. An Alliance that emphasizes community rather than class, internationalism rather than national gesture, and which stresses the crucial need to live in tune with nature, rather than confronting it, would strike sonorous chords with the concerns of those who reject the harshness of Thatcherism but who do not wish to risk today's Labourism.

So I recommend to David Owen and to David Steel as a New Year text the words of Ramsay Muir, a great but sadly neglected Liberal leader of the interwar years: "The only man who can answer the fervours of a sincere socialist orator is a man who is as flamingly aware as he of the ills by which our society is disfigured and as eager to remedy them. The only reply to Socialism is a creed that equally looks forward to a better future but with a sounder and a more reserved faith."

It is time for the Alliance to work with the grain of its parties' values, rather than to believe that its support will come from only one side of the political divide. The author is Liberal MP for Leeds West.

Michael Heseltine on the need to convince each new generation of the efficacy of deterrence

Countering CND the peaceful way

There is nothing new about the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Its slogans and banners are hardly distinguishable from those of the 1930s. It is merely the latest manifestation of left-wing attempts to mobilize public support for pacifist policies.

But there is a second side to the movement. The genuinely apprehensive feel a dread and moral repugnance for military activity. My dilemma as Defence Secretary was how to dismiss the CND challenge for what it was without making it appear to this second, large and important audience that I was uninterested in their concerns.

The protest groups did my job for me. My letter turning down a CND challenge to debate coincided with the public spectacle of myself brought to my knees in the midst of a police escort helping me to gain access to a Conservative Party meeting at Newbury. I would not suggest that this débacle was organised by CND, but it was the work of their supporters and the message got home. The sight of a raucous mob claiming to act in the name of peace spoke louder than words.

In the recently published *Peace of the Dead*, Paul Mercer meticulously documents the activities of those throughout this century who have used that most emotive word

one would claim that this book is light bedtime reading. But for those who want to understand the meaning behind left-wing pacifist political language, it has invaluable breadth and depth.

At one point Mercer quotes Marshall Shaposhnikov's revealing paraphrase of Clausewitz: "If war is the continuation of politics by other means, then it is also true that peace, that is politics, is the continuation of war by other means." And to fight political wars in times of peace, you need organizations. Mercer painstakingly charts the front organizations created for this purpose.

In some cases he had to probe diligently to find the suspect antecedents of seemingly innocent men and women. In others the front organizations obligingly exposed themselves. Thus the World Peace Council lost all credibility by supporting the use of Soviet tanks in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and then Afghanistan.

CND's particular appeal is based on its supposed raising of "the peace issue". Yet peace is not at issue. We are at peace. Indeed, Western Europe is at peace today precisely because for 40 years we have taken no risks with our security. A continent that for centuries fought itself to a standstill has now established, in partnership with North America, a policy of deterrence which prevents any country from rationally

calculating that gains can be made by military means.

The closer I, as a minister, came to the world power struggle, the more I detected the immense care with which the superpowers conduct themselves wherever serious danger of escalation exists. Both sides know where the real lines are drawn.

Yet credible deterrence also demands a broad equivalence of weapon systems and striking power. That match must involve nuclear as well as conventional capacity. Labour or Liberal arguments that there is another way are either naïve or founded on an ultimate but disguised reliance on American protection which is both deceitful and opportunistic.

That is not to say that arms control or limitation should not be pursued; it should. Both sides of the superpower confrontation are equipped on a scale beyond any rational requirements. But such are the understandable suspicions of those who negotiate arms control arrangements that even balanced reductions have proved beyond political skill. If from the Geneva-Ryjkiv process such momentous achievement could be attained, it would earn for President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev the acclaim of history.

In these negotiations there is one characteristic of the western democracies which must always be remembered. Governments

and parties have to persuade — by reason and against the propaganda of organizations like CND — each new generation of voters to support the policies of deterrence with all the horrendous military capability that that implies. That will be easier if those generations believe that the West has used its strength to negotiate arms control agreements and, having negotiated them, stays within them.

The Camp David agreement to constrain "Star Wars" within the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty was a significant landmark on which the West should stand. The Foreign Office was right to criticize the infringement of Salt II, albeit ungratified. What can one more B-52 bomber conceivably gain for the US when measured against the change that America does not keep within its own commitments?

The Russians, of course, will negotiate and interpret agreements in the most legalistic way. But if arms control agreements are to be seen simply as pauses in the escalation process until one side or the other believes it has a decisive advance, then there will be no arms control agreements at all. And without arms control, the fraudulent appeal of CND will again begin to win recruits.

The author, Conservative MP for Henley, was Defence Secretary, 1982-86. Peace of the Dead is published by Policy Research Publications, 35 Westminster Bridge Rd, SE 1.



MARCHING FOR DEMOCRACY

When the students of China start marching in the name of democracy, the warnings from history sound loud. Chinese students have numbers and they have influence, and they have been in the vanguard of every twist in China's perpetual revolution since the turn of the century. That is why the crowd of 20,000 students blocking the streets of Shanghai this weekend cannot be passed off lightly.

The precise significance of these demonstrations, however, is still uncertain. According to some, the marches — which have been reported from Hefei in the north to Shenzhen in the south, and from Xian in the west to Shanghai in the east — are only an extended version of the traditional December marches commemorating the student protests of 1935 against the Japanese. (Such demonstrations have gathered strength in recent years as the impact of Japanese wealth and the influx of Japanese consumer goods has provoked nationalist resentment among young Chinese.)

Others argue that this year's marches were inspired by local student grievances such as sub-standard food in canteens and indifferent teaching. Yet the central and unifying demand of the marching students has not been directed against the Japanese, nor has it been a call for higher living standards, but an appeal for more democracy. The meaning of democracy to students

who have neither experienced nor observed it at first hand remains open to interpretation. To many, however, it means the right to criticise the government and the ruling Communist Party. It means more press freedom and the right of legal protest.

In one way, the fact that this weekend's demonstrations have taken place and the fact that China's leaders have insisted on the students' right to march is a measure of the more open climate in China today. But it also illustrates the risks to the authorities of opening up the country at all.

The past year has seen discussion in the Chinese press on two highly sensitive topics: How far the decentralising economic reforms require corresponding political reform, and how far the leading role of the Communist Party is appropriate in today's China.

Now, it is being suggested that the demonstrators support one or other of the arguments being voiced in the press — that they are either in support of the reforms pioneered by Deng Xiaoping and implemented by his younger appointees, or that they see further reform as socially divisive and therefore anti-democratic.

China's students have grounds for supporting either. As China's future educated class they have good prospects in a country which is setting increased store by economic advancement and technologi-

cal expertise. As the poor of today, however, with an appreciation of the privileges available to party officials, they might well be tempted to return to the egalitarian values of the early Communist years. They are ripe for manipulation by either line in China's divided leadership.

If this latest student unrest is not to turn nasty, the authorities will need to show restraint. To halt the marches by force would risk violence on a scale which could severely damage the more enlightened image the Chinese leadership has successfully cultivated. They also stand to alienate the students — the very people they want to continue their cause into the 21st century. And for the moment the leadership probably calculates that the students have more to lose from the crackdown than would inevitably follow an unruly demonstration than they have from the status quo.

However, as the number of students continues to rise to meet the demands of modernisation, as the number of young people under 25 continues to increase beyond the present 40 per cent of the population, and as more and more young Chinese return from abroad with the experience and the ideas they have gleaned in the West, their frustration with China's gerontocracy and backwardness is likely to mount. The student demonstrations of 1986 are a warning for the future.

CANDID FRIENDS

When, as Minister of Munitions in 1915, Lloyd George had to deal with restrictive labour practices, he made the disarming admission that he belonged himself to "the strictest, the most jealous, strictest union in the world". He was referring, of course, to the legal profession, and the lapse of more than seventy years has done little to invalidate the description. The adversarial system operates only in court; it does not extend to the public discussion by lawyers of the performance of other lawyers.

That, at any rate, was the virtually unbroken rule until last year, when Lord Devlin's book about the trial of Dr John Bodkin Adams, *Easing the Passing*, was published. The author, who was judge at the Bodkin Adams trial, not only gave a detailed and fascinating account of it, but in particular was most scathing about the performance of the Attorney-General of the day, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller — later Lord Dilhorne — who led for the Crown.

Lord Devlin's behaviour earned him a grave rebuke from (among others) two figures of equivalent status in the "trades union", Lords Scarman and Bridge, in the form of a letter to the *Times Literary Supplement*. Now, in a postscript to the paperback edition, he replies:

He disputes the argument that it was wrong to write as he did about a former judicial colleague (he and Dilhorne sat together a few times as supplementary Lords of Appeal in

the 1960s), and he denies writing about Dilhorne with contempt. Some may find this denial the least convincing part of his defence. He wrote, he says, with "a lack of admiration", but this seems an understatement.

Yet on the main count Lord Devlin fights back strongly. The idea that former judicial colleagues should never be uncomplimentary to each other in public he rightly perceives as a glorified version of the rule that dog should not eat dog. And he does not accept this rule as sacrosanct, though it is clear that he believes in a close season. His adverse comments on Dilhorne were delayed until nearly 30 years after the trial, and until Dilhorne himself was not only retired, but dead.

Yet he replies that if all criticism of a man had to be made, as it were, to his face, the world would be considerably more unpleasant than it already is; also that the book could not be written until Bodkin Adams was dead, and that he survived Dilhorne.)

Given that absolute rules of professional secrecy and self-censorship are, in principle, undesirable, most people would nevertheless agree that there should be a decent interval before free disclosure and discussion of sensitive matters can begin. What should the interval be? The State orders a period of 30 years before access is granted to public records (though unfortunately some are then held

back, to say nothing of those that may have disappeared). On the whole the 30-year rule seems about right and, so far as the Bodkin Adams trial is concerned, Lord Devlin has roughly, and quite spontaneously, observed it.

The same cannot be said of the growing number of politicians who, within five years or so of completing their careers, rush into print with diaries or memoirs revealing Cabinet secrets and rubbishing their colleagues. Their breach of "trades union" solidarity is so premature as to be manifestly unjustifiable, and it threatens the proper working of our political system. We can only hope that retired judges will follow Lord Devlin's example in its restraint: no less than in its boldness.

Root-and-branch opponents of our system of justice, in which the purpose of all concerned is to prove or disprove a case rather than to arrive at the truth, will note one significant comment. "It is not part of a judge's duty to look for and expose submerged points — that is a job for counsel." The result, some will say, is that the truth far too often remains submerged.

Lord Devlin also defends the right of an accused person to remain silent, of which Bodkin Adams availed himself — which, in the form of pleading the Fifth Amendment, is now a highly topical issue in that other stronghold of the English legal system, the United States.

NEW MAN AT THE IMF

The appointment of M Michel Camdessus, Governor of the Bank of France, as managing director of the International Monetary Fund has brought to an end a bitter three month conflict between M Camdessus and his Dutch adversary, Finance Minister Mr Onno Ruding, who were seen as the candidates of the world's debtors and creditors respectively. M Camdessus, supported by France and the Latin American debtors, and Mr Ruding who received the backing of the Dutch, British and West German governments, unprecedentedly fought it out to the last.

M Camdessus is taking the helm at a difficult time for the IMF. Since the Third World debt crisis captured the headlines in 1982, the IMF has advocated stringent austerity programmes for debtor countries in severe economic difficulties. Austerity and adjustment having cleared much of the ground, the emphasis has now turned to the second necessary stage of transition, which is to renew the flow of funds to economies which are still in trouble but are now better adjusted to grow out of debt-induced stagnation. This was implicit in the third world debt initiative unveiled by the US Treasury Secretary Mr James Baker

at the annual IMF-World Bank meeting in Seoul in October 1985. As head of the Paris Club of Western creditor nations, M Camdessus gained valuable experience in negotiating rescheduling agreements with East European and Latin American debtors during the 1970s. He is widely regarded as an able technician, with some commitment to monetary and fiscal restraint, but with more appeal to the Latin American governments with whom he will be in close contact over the next five years.

The series of debt restructuring negotiations due next year is expected to be extremely difficult, particularly in the wake of the conditions granted to Mexico in its refinancing agreement signed last month. Under the paradoxical provisions of that arrangement, Mexico will receive additional funds if it fails to register a minimal level of growth in the first quarter of 1987. It is thus rewarded for doing badly.

The international creditor banks were far from enthusiastic about another innovation — linking debt repayments to commodity prices, in this case oil. The banks were eventually reconciled to this as a result of pressure from the US government to make Mexico a special case. Now, Argentina,

Egypt, the Philippines and numerous other debtors will be seeking special case status. The precedent has been established, and the pressure on the IMF's new man to make further concessions will be formidable.

There are few strategies that M Camdessus can promote to reduce the continuing debt burden. The swapping of debt for equity, which has had some success in Chile and Mexico, is one option that has come in for discussion recently. But for largely political reasons, this seems likely to be effective only at the margins.

M Camdessus realises that the debtor nations now need to rejoin the general expansion of the world economy. The IMF's job, therefore, will be principally to clear away the remaining impediments to renewed commercial lending and private investment. That — rather than a fresh round of austerity — is what the debtor nations now need. But the problem that M Camdessus faces is that further pressure by the IMF for economic liberalization and the dismantling of barriers comes at a time when, having been through enforced austerity, debtor nations in many cases are less disposed to cooperate with the IMF that imposed it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Points to ponder on child abuse

From Mr T. G. Stanton
Sir, I am at present dealing with a child care case involving a father of a number of very young children, with a very old conviction for sexual offences (which he denies, but of which he was found guilty) against a much older child of a totally different family.

When the social services found out about his conviction they investigated the circumstances but decided there was no ground for taking the children into care at that time.

Earlier this year the parents reported the social worker responsible for their family to the police for alleged sexual assault upon one of their children. The police could obtain insufficient evidence, but the result was to stimulate social services' interest in the children. The social services subsequently took care proceedings, and care orders have been made (now the subject of appeal) and the children taken away from both parents.

Securing a conviction in cases of child abuse may seem like an end in itself, but frequently the ultimate goal can involve care proceedings and the total destruction of the family unit. Securing a conviction is not necessarily going to protect anyone. Securing a conviction of someone for an imaginary offence, or of the wrong person for a real offence, will damage us all.

I hope that Douglas Hurd will not be led into making damaging changes to the law simply to win the approval of people like Esther Rantzen and Mavis Srivastava (letter, December 10). He will only have to ask himself how a social worker would feel if his liberty and livelihood were to depend on a film of an interview with a young child whom neither he nor anyone on his behalf would ever have any opportunity of questioning.

The fact that it is recommended that such films are made "while the incident is still relatively fresh in the child's mind", as Mr Srivastava puts it, almost certainly means that the "specially trained social workers and police officers" conducting the interview will have no knowledge whatsoever of the accused's side of the story.

If they have no knowledge of that, how can their questioning properly cover all the relevant circumstances? The answer to that would be to abolish the right of silence. Why stop short of in-

roducing a presumption of guilt? Yours faithfully,
T. G. STANTON,
Wintle & Co, Solicitors,
44a High Street,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

From Dr Robert Wilkins
Sir, Re video evidence in child abuse cases (feature, November 25, leader, December 2), when I was 15 I witnessed the abduction of a young girl who was subsequently found murdered. At the identity parade I was so frightened that I could not bring myself to stare into the faces of the eight men lined up in front of me. In panic I pointed at random and picked out an innocent man.

I have little doubt that my action was largely responsible for the chief suspect going free, and I ease my conscience by persuading myself that the police should have been more aware of the nervousness that I had felt in such a threatening situation.

Today, more than a quarter of a century later, I work as a child psychiatrist in the field of sexual abuse, and feel that little progress has been made in the acknowledgement of children's fears. Many cases of alleged sexual abuse made by children against their relatives are withdrawn simply because the victims become caught up in a nightmare over which they have no control.

For a child who has already been subjected to many hours of repetitious questioning about the details of the abuse, the anticipatory anxiety of yet another interrogation, this time in court and in the presence of the alleged abuser, can make the urge to retract almost irresistible.

No child should be subjected to cross-examination in a courtroom, since the need for justice for the accused is not compromised if a defence lawyer's questions are relayed via a video link to less intimidating surroundings well away from the court. In this way fewer children will feel pressured to retract and some small attempt will have been made to limit further emotional trauma.

The obvious difference between an innocent victim and my teenage experience was that I did not have to go back to live with the man whose father had been of evidence.

Yours sincerely,
R. D. WILKINS,
Family & Young Persons Unit,
Paxton House, 57 Bath Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Human rights

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Nottingham North (Conservative)
Sir, Lord McCloskey (report, December 4) argues that the introduction of a Bill of Rights into United Kingdom law would shift the power from elected and

accountable MPs to judges who are not. With the greatest respect, I think this misses the point.

The great weakness of the present system is that a citizen of this country who feels that his human rights have been breached has little scope for remedy in this country. The only clear way in which citizens can seek a remedy for an infringement of rights is to go to the European Commission of Human Rights with his complaint.

This is a time-consuming and expensive business which is available only to a few. The introduction of the European Convention on Human Rights to English law will ensure that a remedy is available at first instance in the English courts.

As a country which has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights we are already subject to its treaties. The cases of over 80 applicants from the UK to the European Commission have resulted in rulings in their favour. Incorporating it into English law merely brings it nearer home, where it is administered by English judges rather than European ones.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY,
House of Commons,
December 8.

Unfitting response

From Mr Vivian Vale
Sir, If the Island Revenue's demand from Miss Margaret Slack (December 13) is too large for its prepaid reply envelope, and neither must be folded, then the remedy lies in her own hands. She may in good conscience reduce her liability with the scissors.

Yours faithfully,
V. VALE,
Middle House, 22 Long Street,
Cerne Abbas, Dorset,
December 13.

Docklands airport

From Mr K. C. Ralph
Sir, The letter from Mr P. B. Lucas (December 13) suggesting that Sir Keith Park's part in the Battle of Britain should be remembered in the naming of the Docklands airport does not go far enough. After the successful defence of Britain Sir Keith went on to complete the successful air defence of Malta.

The Maltese having shared our time of trial (when we stood alone), could we not extend the naming of the airport to enable the George Cross islanders' bravery in support to be permanently remembered in our docklands revival? Such a gesture would not only be a reminder of our gratitude to the Maltese people but

would ensure the memory of thousands of men who died helping sustain Malta itself. May I suggest George Cross Airport?

Yours faithfully,
K. C. RALPH,
19 Canute Close,
Canewdon, Rochford, Essex.

Lost horizon

From the Reverend F. A. Mooney
Sir, "The semi-educated are as hungry for moral values as the rest of us" (December 16). Is not Roger Scruton's implied claim to be already educated self-refuting? Education, like maturity, is always a receding goal.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. MOONEY,
Christian Education Centre,
152 Brownlow Hill, Liverpool.

Care in community

From Mr F. Berin Carter
Sir, In her letter of December 9 the Under Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Security unjustly accuses Dr Harry Jacobs (November 27) of tilting at a windmill. As a parent of a severely handicapped Downs Syndrome child, a patient these last thirty years in an excellent institution (Leybourne Grange, near Maidstone) under the Tunbridge Wells Health Authority, I was sent by that authority a "prepared statement", dated June 7, 1985,

and I quote from it:
The plan to eventually close Leybourne Grange and the Princess Christian Hospital is in response to a Government policy which seeks to close all large institutions and to provide alternative care in small community based units.

That is no windmill to parents of severely handicapped children within these institutions, and evidently it is no windmill to the Chairman of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists.

The theory behind the dispersal policy was no doubt originated by experts with good intentions. The

Safety first in electric plugs

From Mr Peter Colebrook
Sir, Whilst agreeing with Mr Last (December 15) that it is not uncommon to find plugs overheating due to loose terminal connections, we do not believe this to be due to the frequency of the mains supply in this country.

However, Mr Last raises an interesting point. Our experience over many years suggests that this overheating is due to the phenomenon known to engineers as "creep". Under high mechanical loads certain materials flow slightly so as to relax the load.

This can occur in conventional plug terminal designs in which the copper conductors are pinched against the side of a hole by the end of the terminal screw. This generates high stresses in the conductor. Such joints appear reliable when used with solid conductors in a fixed installation, but can cause trouble in plugs, etc., where the conductors consist of a large number of fine copper strands.

For this reason all MK designed plugs have, for many years, used an alternative form of terminal in which the conductors are securely clamped by a nut and washer against a substantially flat surface. However, any plug that is not wired and whose terminals are not secured properly can result in overheating.

With plugs, as in most products, you get what you pay for and a cheap plug may not prove to be the bargain it first appeared.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COLEBROOK (Product Engineering Manager),
MK Electric Limited,
Shrubbery Road, Edmonton, N9,
December 16.

Control of Church

From Mr Bernard Kaukas
Sir, The Bishop of Birmingham's dichotomous desire (Clifford Longley's article, December 6) for some more definite structure of authority in the Anglican Communion, coupled with the need for it to "be developed in close connection with an emphasis on the right and sometimes the duty of the community to engage in critical discussions of decisions on faith and morals", besides being a deliciously innocent and typically Anglican contradiction in terms, calls to mind the analogous dilemma which confronted the Duke of Wellington in his first Cabinet meeting as Prime Minister: "An extraordinary affair. I gave them their orders and they wanted to stay and discuss them."

Yours authoritatively,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1.

From the Reverend P. D. King
Sir, The Bishop of Birmingham is reported as recommending that the Anglican Communion should acquire a universal primate. The news brought to mind Lady Bracknell's words "To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness."

To find one universal primate might be regarded as, on balance, good fortune; but to find two...? Yours faithfully,
PAUL D. KING,
15 Beaumont Street, Oxford.

Counties in the cold

From Dr R. C. Tress
Sir, One frequently has it asserted by cricket's spokesmen and commentators that the heart of the first-class game is the county championship. In the recent dispute within the Somerset club this generalisation was coupled with the complaint that the county's "star" players were neglectful of its claims, leaving their less spectacular colleagues to bear the burden and heat — or cold — of the three-day rounds.

Your publication (December 5) of next year's fixture list gives occasion to question whether the cricket authorities truly believe the championship digests. To test their faith while avoiding identifying "star" players — or where they might be playing next season — let us simply look at the programmes of the two counties each with more than one player in last week's Test match in Perth: Leicestershire and Middlesex.

Of the 48 three-day championship games to be played by two counties, one-day and five-day matches between England and Pakistan are scheduled to overlap no less than 19 of them (including one when they play each other); the five-day MCC bicentenary match will overlap three more.

Do the cricket authorities really take the county championship seriously? Can the counties' "star" players really be expected to do so, when they are liable to be called elsewhere for nearly half the games?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. TRESS,
22 The Beach,
Walmer, Deal, Kent,
December 5.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 22 1941

Hitler's assumption of more direct control over the army was seen by the Allies as his need to place blame for the failure to occupy Moscow before winter and to encourage his soldiers.

HITLER TAKES COMMAND

BRAUCHITSCH DISMISSED

FÜHRER'S APPEAL TO TROOPS TO HOLD ON

Hitler has dismissed Field Marshal von Brauchitsch, Commander-in-Chief of the German Army, and has himself taken over the post. The announcement comes at the time when the news of further Russian successes, particularly in the north...

Hitler, in an appeal to the German Army on his assumption of the supreme command, says: "Soldiers of the Army and S.S. formations. The battle for the liberty of our people and for the security of its future existence — the battle which is to make it impossible for us to be threatened every 20 to 25 years with a war under a fresh pretext but in reality for the same Jewish capitalist interests — is now approaching its culminating and turning point. The German Reich, Italy, and the nations allied to us have had the fortune to find in Japan, who is a world power and a friend and comrade in arms, Japan who is to have been strangled with the same forms and pretences as we ourselves. With the lightning destruction of the American Pacific Fleet and the British forces at Singapore, with the occupation of numerous British and American bases in western Asia by the Japanese forces, the present war is now entering upon a new and favourable stage for us. We are now facing a decision of world-wide importance."

The armies in the East, after their immortal victories without parallel in world history against the most dangerous enemy of all time, must now, owing to the sudden onset of winter, be brought from mobile progress into a stationary front. It is their task, up to the coming of spring, to hold and defend with the fanaticism which they have hitherto conquered with immeasurable heroism and heavy sacrifices...

Preparations for an immediate resumption of offensive operations in the spring, until the enemy in the west is finally destroyed, must be taken at once. Other defensive war measures are about to be taken...

I know war from the four years of mighty conflict in the west from 1914 to 1918. I experienced personally the horrors of almost all the battles as an ordinary soldier. I was wounded twice and was even threatened with blindness.

It is the army which bears the weight of the struggle. In these circumstances I have therefore decided, in my capacity of Supreme Commander of the German armed forces, to assume personally the leadership of the army.

Thus nothing that torments you, weighs upon you, and oppresses you is unknown to me alone, after four years of war, never for a second doubted the resurrection of my people. With my fanatical will, a simple German soldier, succeeded after more than 15 years of work, in uniting once more the whole German nation and in freeing it from the death sentence of Versailles.

My soldiers, you will therefore understand that my heart belongs solely to you, that my will and my work serve unflinchingly the greatness of my people, that my mind and my resolution are directed only towards the destruction of the enemy — that is, towards the victorious conclusion of this war.

What I can do for you, my soldiers of the Army and the S.S. formations, he who is to care and leadership, will be done. What you can do for me and what you will do, I know you will do with loyalty and obedience until the Reich and our German people are finally saved. God Almighty will not withhold a victory from his brave soldiers...

Human face of law

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy
Sir, "Judge Greenwood", you report (December 9) on the current alleged child rape case, "removed his wig and told counsel to remove theirs before inviting the girl to give evidence sitting beside him".

But why only for a little girl? Why not for everybody? Could this be the first step towards the removal altogether of this ludicrous and unnecessary garment whose only object under our adversary system is to maintain the artificial barrier between the judges and the judged?

What is most needed in our courts now surely is for lawyers to be seen to be human too, for all the diverse elements to a courtroom to be brought nearer together, not driven further apart. The abandonment of the wig would be a wonderful start.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown House,
Avebury,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
December 10.

Battered babies

From Miss Sarah Lowden
Sir, At our local sweetshop I can buy deformed jelly babies for 22p a quarter, whereas normal ones cost 30p. Surely this is unfair discrimination?

Yours faithfully,
SARAH LOWDEN (age 12),
124 Upper Richmond Road West,
East Sheen, SW14,
December 15.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

And the power of God, which
can do anything, and more
than we can imagine.
Philippians 4:13

BIRTHS

ALLEN - On December 4th at the John
Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Gillian
(nee Cooke) and David, a son, James
Allen. Mrs. Allen is a member of the
Church of England.

BISHOP - On December 17th, at West
minster Hospital, to Cecilia (nee
Scott) and Steven, a son, Christopher
Bishop. Mrs. Bishop is a member of the
Church of England.

BROWN - On December 18th at Queen
Charlotte's Hospital, to John (nee
Capewell) and John, a son, Henry
Brown. Mrs. Brown is a member of the
Church of England.

COOPER - On December 7th 1986, at
St Mary's, Paddington, to Maggie
Ann Stanton and Terry, a son, Nicholas
Cooper. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the
Church of England.

EVANS - On December 13th, at
Riverview in Redbank, New Jersey
to Anthony (nee Evans) and David,
a daughter, Holly Elizabeth.

HALLIDAY - On December 10th 1986,
at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to
Thomas and Jonathan, a son, William
Halliday. Mrs. Halliday is a member of the
Church of England.

HEALD - On December 14th, at
St. George's Hospital, to David and
Sarah, a daughter, Hannah Heald.
Mrs. Heald is a member of the Church of
England.

LEWIS - On December 14th, at St.
George's Hospital, to David and
Sarah, a daughter, Hannah Lewis.
Mrs. Lewis is a member of the Church of
England.

SCOTT - On December 19th at St.
Thomas's Hospital, to Mollie and
Dominic, a daughter.

STEVENS - On December 17th, at
Farnborough Hospital, to Kent and
Philip, a daughter, Charlotte Stevens.
Mrs. Stevens is a member of the Church of
England.

STRONG - On December 14th, at An-
glesea, to one (Freddie) and Philip,
a daughter, Charlotte Joanna.

MARRIAGES

WILLIAMSON-COBLEY, On Saturday
December 20th, Richard to Pen-
elope.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

WILLIAMS - On 21st December
1946 at Christchurch Priory, Tom
and Kay of 65 Rhos Hendre,
Wauchoir, Aberystwyth.

DEATHS

BECKFORD - On Friday December
19th 1986, peacefully at the home,
Walgrave, Berkshire, Alfred James,
aged 92 years, late partner of
Walgrave. Funeral service at 11.30 am
on Tuesday December 23rd at St.
Cuthbert's Church, Walgrave.

BLACK - On December 18th, suddenly,
Kenneth. Deceased and wife
Margaret. Funeral details to be
arranged.

BRECKELL - On December 17th,
suddenly, at the home, 17, Mary
Pratt, most dearly loved wife, mother,
and stepmother. Funeral service on Tues-
day, December 23rd, at St Mary's,
Lewford, at 12 noon. Flowers may
be sent to W.H. Shepherd, 93, High
Street, Colchester.

BROWN - On December 16th 1986,
suddenly and very peacefully, at
home, Kenneth P., aged 64 years, be-
loved husband of Edna, father of
Martin and Nigel and brother of
Norma. Funeral service on Tuesday
December 23rd at 2.30pm at Perry
Street Crematorium, Farnham. Donations to The Alzheimer's
Disease Society. Rev. Canon
Church, St. Barnabas.

CHURCH - On December 19th, peace-
fully, at home, Catherine Cecily
Church, widow of Captain Douglas
Church, Funeral at Colney Green
Crematorium at 4.00 pm on Tuesday
December 23rd.

COSTON - On December 18th 1986,
Newman, aged 79, loved hus-
band of Peggy and the father of
Andrew, Oxford. Late manager of
Lloyds Bank, Devon. Wife, Service
and cremation at Salisbury, with
donations to the Cancer Society.
Funeral service at 11.30 am, No flow-
ers. Burial at Salisbury.

FANTON - On December 17th, sudden-
ly, at home, Peter, loved hus-
band of Joan and the father of
John, husband to Made and father
and devoted friend to his son Barry.
Burial at St. Peter's Church, with
donations to the Cancer Society.

HALLIDAY - On December 18th in his
82nd year, peacefully, at home,
John, loved husband of Joan, father
of David and John, and grandfather
of David and John. Burial at St.
Peter's Church, with donations to the
Cancer Society.

LEWIS - On December 18th, at home,
John, loved husband of Joan, father
of David and John, and grandfather
of David and John. Burial at St.
Peter's Church, with donations to the
Cancer Society.

SCOTT - On December 19th, at home,
John, loved husband of Joan, father
of David and John, and grandfather
of David and John. Burial at St.
Peter's Church, with donations to the
Cancer Society.

STEVENS - On December 17th, at
Farnborough Hospital, to Kent and
Philip, a daughter, Charlotte Stevens.
Mrs. Stevens is a member of the Church of
England.

STRONG - On December 14th, at An-
glesea, to one (Freddie) and Philip,
a daughter, Charlotte Joanna.

MULLINS - On December 19, suddenly,
at home, Michael, aged 54 years, be-
loved husband of Mary, father of
John and David, and brother of
Margaret. All enquiries to Alexander
and Sons, 18, St. James's Place,
London W1P 8JQ.

PERKINS - On December 18th, peace-
fully, at home, David, loved hus-
band of Mary, father of John and
David, and brother of Margaret.
Funeral service on Tuesday
December 23rd at 2.30pm at Perry
Street Crematorium, Farnham. Donations to The Alzheimer's
Disease Society. Rev. Canon
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a daughter, Charlotte Joanna.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE
OF FLORENCE

David Rundle, Director,
British Institute, Langar,
Guiseborough, YO12 5JZ.

Tel: 010 39 55 284031

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Secret papers lost on train still missing

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Secret documents outlining the current thinking of military experts on the defence of Central Europe in the event of a Soviet attack are still missing six months after being stolen, the Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday.

But officials would not be drawn on fears that the papers may have ended up in the hands of the Russians. It was hoped rather that they had been stolen by a thief who had not realised their sensitivity who then destroyed them.

The documents were left behind on a train by a senior Army officer after he fell asleep. The incident happened in July but details have only just been disclosed following the court martial last week of the officer involved, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Faith.

It is the second embarrassing incident involving lost confidential documents this year. Earlier a Royal Navy captain lost papers on a towpath near Reading.

Details of the theft involving Colonel Faith emerged at his court martial at Bulford Army camp in Wiltshire when he pleaded guilty to failing to take "reasonable care" of the documents, four marked "secret" and another "confidential".

He was given a severe reprimand and the court martial was told that he would have been promoted to full colonel by now but for the incident. The sentence is subject to confirmation.

The missing documents included:

- Details of counter-offensive operations in the Central Region 1995-2010 dated June 20, 1986 and classified secret.
- A memo from the Chief of General Staff, General Sir

Nigel Bagnall, to Assistant Chief of General Staff covering document D/R Army Plans 17/4/F dated June 2, 1986 with comments by CGS and classified secret.

● Details of counter-offensive operations for the Central Region entitled "Sub-Concept" and classified confidential.

Last night the Ministry of Defence refused to discuss the details of the documents. However they were understood not to contain detailed military planning but to be "conceptual papers" outlining a range of possible options to counter any Soviet offensive in the key Central Region.

The papers disappeared, the court martial was told, on Friday July 11 as Colonel Faith, then a tank expert working on the staff of the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff at the MOD travelled by train from London to spend a weekend with his family in East Sussex.

In the carriage Colonel Faith, who said in an alleged statement that he had a "tiring week", fell asleep. When he woke suddenly he grabbed his own briefcase and coat and left the train at his station, forgetting a second case containing the secret documents.

It was not until later that evening when an unidentified woman telephoned him at home to ask if the papers had any value or if there was any reward for their return that he realised what had happened.

The briefcase was later found by a British Rail cleaner, with the papers missing. There has been no further contact from the mystery caller.

Dissident to speak out

Continued from page 1

It is understood that this remark referred to hopes in the Kremlin that Dr Sakharov, one of the inventors of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, can be persuaded to speak out in favour of some of the disarmament initiatives launched by Mr Gorbachev.

Evidence of a change in the Kremlin's approach to dissidents also came with confirmation that two other well-known figures have had earlier decisions against them reversed in the wake of the decision to free Dr Sakharov.

Dr Naum Meiman, a member of the now defunct Helsinki human rights monitoring group, told western newsmen that his wife, Ina, aged 53, who is suffering from a severe cancer in her neck has been given permission to travel abroad to seek medical help.

The dissident released after serving some 12 years in prison and a labour camp was Mr Mustafa Dzemylov, aged 43, a leading campaigner for the Tatars who want to return to the Crimea.

Kremlin moves, page 7

Last hamper for lonely men of Skerries



The RAF flies in with the last Christmas hamper to be delivered to the Skerries lighthouse, which is soon to be automated (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Christmas will be a festive farewell on The Skerries lighthouse this year.

When the three Trinity House keepers sit down to their turkey, pudding and a celebratory glass of whisky, it will be the 272nd and the last Christmas to be celebrated on the rock nine miles north of Holyhead.

The light, which serves all shipping from Liverpool and Holyhead, will be automated in February and controlled remotely from Holyhead.

The modernisation also signals the end of a more recent tradition linking the lighthouse with the search and rescue helicopter base at RAF Valley, near Holyhead.

Group Captain Ian Dick, station commander, presented the lighthousemen, Mr Ivor Pritchard, Principal Keeper and his assistants Mr Dave Flintstone and Mr Barry Hawkins, with their Christmas hamper, given to The Skerries for the past 24 years.

Wright family insists he told the truth

Continued from page 1

may have forged the document to discredit him.

He said there should be a proper inquiry into the matter and his demands have been supported by the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock.

Downing Street yesterday poured cold water over the renewed calls for an inquiry. Sources said that the Prime Minister had made it clear that she was not interested in setting up an inquiry into allegations made by Mr Wright about plots to undermine the Wilson government.

In an attempt to bypass Mrs Thatcher, the Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell, a close friend of Lord Glenamara, has written to the seven members of the Security Commission, appealing to them to set up a special tribunal to investigate anti-Wilson government plots.

In a long letter to Lord Griffiths, the chairman, and the other members, Mr Dalyell agreed that it was an

unusual step since it is only the Prime Minister of the day who requests the commission to inquire into any security issue.

But he appealed to them to convert the Commission into a tribunal under the 1921 Tribunals Act, in order to examine the whole of M15's activities during the last period of the Wilson government and in particular the case of Lord Glenamara.

Mr Dalyell said he had written to Lord Griffiths with the approval of Mr Kinnock.

Mr Dalyell said: "Can it really be that the Deputy Prime Minister of our country, a man hitherto of unquestioned integrity, was set up by a government agency with a view to the destruction of his public life and the consequent destabilizing of our duly elected government?"

"And why did the Scotland Yard commander and his colleagues who had been active in the case suddenly drop it like hot bricks? Did they

discover to their horror that the crime against Mr Short had been perpetrated by those working for the British state?"

"Was housebreaking or breaking into offices involved and, if so, does such an invasion of privacy, to put it mildly, take place with ministerial authority?"

Mr Dalyell said the forgery case had wrecked Mr Short. "It was hell for him, it was a wicked thing to do," he said.

Despite his intervention on Lord Glenamara's behalf, there seems little chance of the Security Commission taking any action off its own back.

One possible setback for Mrs Thatcher yesterday was the suggestion that the director-general of M15, Sir Antony Duff, who was appointed by Mrs Thatcher, is likely to retire next year. He was brought out of retirement to head M15 because Mrs Thatcher was anxious to have someone she knew well and trusted in that sensitive post.

In yet another case of past plots and alleged skulduggery, apparently raised by Mr Wright in his book, *Spycatcher*, which the Government is trying to ban, two Conservative politicians have been named as those who are suspected of having knowledge about plots against the Wilson government.

The two, Mr Winston Churchill and the former MP Sir Stephen Hastings, "had absolutely nothing to do with the plots", according to Mr Chapman Pincher, who yesterday dismissed reports about them as "complete rubbish".

Mountain fall man is named

A man who fell 500ft to his death while walking in Snowdonia, north Wales on Saturday was named yesterday as Mr Alan Seal, aged 43, of Sandbach Road, Aisler, near Stoke-on-Trent. Police were alerted by Mr Seal's relatives after he failed to contact them.

Libyans lose 400 claims Chad

N'djamena (AP) — Forces loyal to the Chad Government have launched a counter-offensive against Libyan-backed fighters in the northern Tibesti region, killing 400 Libyans, capturing 17 tanks, and taking a besieged town, Chad Radio said yesterday.

Fighting continued around Wour and Zouar, in the western area of Tibesti, while at Bardai, in the centre, "the enemy turned back in catastrophe" after heavy losses of men and equipment.

The counter-offensive is in response to a new Libyan land and air attack on Saturday morning in the mountainous region, which has been occupied by Libya since 1983.

Libyan soldiers and Chad rebels led by Sheikh Ibn Omar are pitted against forces loyal to Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the former rebel leader whose troops turned against Libya late in October and joined the Government.

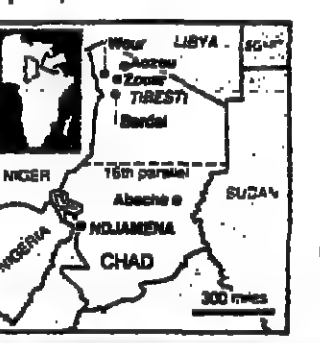
Western intelligence sources confirmed that the Libyans suffered a severe setback in an all-out attack Saturday on Goukouni's forces holding Bardai.

Libya's Jana news agency said that Chad Government troops, aided by France and the United States, had crossed the 16th parallel which divides the Libya-occupied north from the government-controlled south to join Mr Goukouni's forces.

Mr Goukouni is under house arrest in Tripoli.

● US supplies: A shipment of medical supplies, vehicles, transport planes and light arms left the US for Chad yesterday, a second big delivery of American supplies to leave in three weeks.

● LONDON: Libya denied involvement in fighting in Chad but said it would not stand idle in the face of any threats aimed at its security, the official Libyan news agency Jana reported (Reuters reports).



THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see David Lloyd Jones - Ceramics, Copernican Connection, Lock House, Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Music Family Carols by Chester Music Society Choir and City of Chester Brass Band, Chester Cathedral, 7.30.

The Snowman, narrated by Johnny Morris, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, The Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Carol Service, Winchester Cathedral, Winchester, 6.30.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Durham Cathedral, Durham, 7.30.

Carol Concert, Bolton Choral Union, Victoria Hall, Bolton, 7.30.

General Kelso Races, Roxburghshire, Santa Steam Specials, Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire, Mon to Wed, 10 to 5.

A Secret, Sharncliffe Theatre group, Drama Centre, 126 Ingram Street, Glasgow, 7.

London events

New exhibitions South Bank Picture Show - Wipers Annotated: Royal Festival Hall Foyer, South Bank, EC2. Daily 10 to 10 (ends Feb 1).

Last chance to see Exhibition of Israeli artist Steffi Reis: Gallery 10, Grosvenor Street, W1.

Music Concert by Orchestra and Choir of St John's Smith Square St John's Smith Square, SW1, 7.30.

Holst Singers, St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1, 7.30.

The Snowman, Sinfonia of London: Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2, 2. Organ Recital by Katie Varcoe; St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, W8, 1.05.

Carol Service with Deardonn Farrow, St Bride's Church, Fleet St, EC4, 12.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Michael's, Cornhill, EC3, 1.

Carols by City Singers, St Mary Woolnoth, Lombard St, EC3, 1.10.

Carol Service, St Botolph without, Bishopsgate, EC2, 1.10.

Carols by Candlelight with the Louthby Singers and Richard Townsend, St Margaret, Louthby, EC2, 7.

Opera Prima, Royal Festival Hall foyer, South Bank, EC2, 12.30.

Esther Wind Trio, Royal Festival Hall foyer, South Bank, EC2, 5.15.

Amahl and the Night Visitors, opera by Menotti, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Martin's Place, WC2, 1.05.

Talks The Story of the Earth: The Geological Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7, 2.30.

Roads London and South-east: A23: Cable laying between Lombard roundabout and Thornton Heath Road, A30: Single line, eastbound, west of junction with Short Lane, near Staines, A325: Single line, delays between Bayfield Avenue and Brackendale Close, Frimley.

The Midlands: A1: Lane closures west of St Neots at Eaton Socon. A41: Single line, delays between Birmingham and Warwick, north of Hatton.

The North: A19: Lane restrictions, delays at Sunderland bypass.

Wales and the West: A30: Two sets of roadworks between Bodmin and Bolventor - contraflow and lights. A55: Single line between Llanfairfechan and Conwy.

Scotland: A82: Single line south of Invergarry, A701: One lane each way, north of Straton, Edinburgh.

Motorways page 5. Information supplied by the AA.

Nature Notes

In the short days, birds start eating early, and the winter sky at dawn is full of birds returning from their roosts to their feeding grounds.

Starlings leave the firwoods and city buildings, where they have spent the night, in successive waves; these break up into small flocks over a wide area. After feeding, they whistle and sing in a desultory way in the tree tops.

Gulls returning from roost are also a spectacular sight in the half-light before dawn. They sweep into the fields in large parties and rapidly begin searching for the best supply of worms and insects. Inland, they roost mainly on reservoirs. The black-headed gull is the most abundant species of the south, and the common gull in the north.

The lesser black-backed gull, which was once only a summer visitor is now quite common in winter in the urbanised central parts of England, where there are many man-made stretches of water.

On most trees, seeds are all that is left to break the line of the bare branches. DJM

Bond winners Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 17XP 353622 (the winner lives in Blackpool); £50,000: 13RS 5253468 (Glasgow); £25,000: 2EB 210117 (Kent).

Relief Price Index: 391.7

London: The FT index closed up 1.8 at 1272.1 on Friday.

New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 16.03 at 1828.85 on Friday.

Portfolio Gold

Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows: 1. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 2. Times Portfolio is not a collective fund. 3. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 4. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 5. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 6. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 7. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 8. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 9. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 10. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 11. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 12. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 13. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 14. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 15. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 16. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 17. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 18. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 19. Times Portfolio is a weekly investment fund. 20. 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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1272.1 (-8.3)
FT-SE 100
1632.2 (+2.4)
Bargains
31645 (30340)
USM (Datastream)
128.86 (-0.58)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US Dollar
1.4325 (+0.0040)
W German mark
2.8729 (-0.0084)
Trade-weighted
68.6 (-0.1)

DTI stays
silent
on insider
inquiry

By Colin Narborough

The Department of Trade and Industry continued to stonewall yesterday about the progress and origins of the unprecedented investigation now underway into alleged leaks of market-moving information by some civil servants.

This is despite a growing belief that the investigations will be completed soon as the Government has a good idea who the culprit or culprits are.

A DTI spokesman declined to comment on weekend speculation that leaks of highly confidential information on merger bids could be traced to a single source within the DTI.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced last Thursday that he had appointed two outside investigators to look into insider dealing allegations involving officials of the DTI, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

This was after insider dealing revelations in the City and on Wall Street and has been widely seen as a sign of the Government's determination to stamp it out.

The investigators are bound by statutory duty not to disclose details of their investigations, believed to focus on certain sections of the DTI and OFT.

A DTI spokesman said that he had no information to suggest that anyone had been suspended or dismissed in conjunction with the investigation.

He added: "The real test will be in the first 10 or 15 days in the new year. That is when the market may be quite volatile."

Oil prices have strengthened over the past two weeks in anticipation of an Opec accord, with one cargo of Brent for delivery in February traded at \$16.90 on Friday.

Mr Humphrey Harrison, oil analyst at County Securities,

Mr Mehdi Varzi, Opec watcher at Kleinwort, Greaveson, the broker, said yesterday: "We are going into a very quiet season so a very few deals can have a dramatic effect."

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Lowest settlements for a decade

Wage rises
fall to 4.6%

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Wage rises for manufacturing industry have fallen to 4.6 per cent — the lowest for a decade — the Confederation of British Industry said today.

CBI's data bank on pay gives some Christmas cheer for the Government and indicate that the employers' leaders campaign against high pay settlements may be succeeding.

The CBI said the 4.6 per cent average for the fourth quarter of this year marked a continuation of the pronounced downward movement in settlements that began in the third quarter, when the average was 5.6 per cent. It compares with 6.1 per cent for the first two quarters of the year.

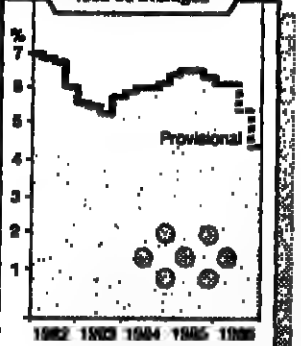
The CBI has maintained that improvements to Britain's poor international labour-cost competitiveness is the one way to win more export business and help to reduce unemployment.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI

director general, said: "While average earnings are continuing to run at rather higher levels, reflecting in part the pick-up in the economy, these much lower figures for basic pay settlements do suggest that at last we may be moving in the right direction."

"There is every reason for this trend to continue. Inflation remains, and will remain, at low levels, and improving our cost competitiveness is the surest route to more secure employment."

The latest survey covers 80 pay settlements across different industries and regions and shows wide variation. The 4.5 to 5.5 per cent band accounted for 36.6 per cent of wage rises since August 1. A further 21.6 per cent were in the 5.5 to 6.5 per cent range. But, at the lower end, 17.3 per cent were between 3.5 and 4.5 per cent, and almost 10 per cent of settlements were for less than 2.5 per cent.



Today's level is a far cry from the 16 per cent pay rises negotiated in the first half of 1980 and almost half of the rates won in early 1981. For the past two-and-a-half years, to this summer, wage rises stood stubbornly at the 6-7 per cent mark.

Two more bright spots for the Government

Firmer oil prices
expected today

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Oil prices are likely to be firmer today despite Iraq's refusal to abide by the production cutbacks agreed by ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Twelve of the 13 Opec states have accepted a 7.25 per cent reduction in overall production to 15.8 million barrels a day in the first half of 1987, and they have agreed to return to a fixed price system based on \$18 a barrel.

Analysis 19

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'Rosier' outlook
for trade

By Our Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of payments will edge narrowly into deficit next year, according to Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker. But the deficit will be eliminated in 1988.

Wood Mackenzie's forecast, contained in *UK Economic Outlook 1987* and 1988, is much rosier than most of its rivals. The current account deficit is restricted to \$500 million next year, below the Treasury forecast of \$1.5 billion, before returning to a \$100 million surplus in 1988.

This is based on strong net invisible earnings, predicted to rise to £10.3 billion next year and £11.6 billion in 1988.

Under the accord, no member is bound by its provisions if any other state exceeds its quota.

NEW OPEC OUTPUT QUOTAS

(Thousands of barrels per day)

Country	New % share of output	New quota	Dec quota
Algeria	4.021	635	698
Ecuador	1.328	210	221
Gabon	0.952	152	160
Indonesia	7.170	1,133	1,193
Iran	14.288	2,255	2,317
Iraq	9.273	1,489	1,549
Kuwait	5.004	848	899
Libya	8.005	1,249	1,304
Nigeria	7.837	1,239	1,304
Qatar	1.803	285	300
Saudi Arabia	28.161	4,133	4,353
UAE	5.703	902	950
Venezuela	9.460	1,485	1,574

Britain in final EEC fight to
save struggling shipbuilders

By Our Industrial Staff

The fate of struggling state-owned British Shipbuilders rests largely on a final attempt being made by the British Government in Brussels today to win large increases in public subsidies for European shipyards.

It will mark the last chance for the European industry ministers to reach agreement on a new regime for shipbuilding subsidies before the existing EEC directive on the industry expires at the end of the month.

Britain, with some support

from the Italians, has been lobbying hard for an acceptance of the principle that about a third of the cost of making ships should be covered by state aid in an attempt to compete with the intense and, arguably, unfair cut-price competition from South Korea and Japan.

Shipbuilding companies throughout the EEC say that they need support until the next expected upturn in orders in the 1990s.

After detailed studies by independent consultants, the

EEC has accepted that there should be an aid ceiling of 26 per cent of the cost of producing ships.

Britain wants the level of subsidy to be well over 30 per cent.

The proposed directive, favoured by Britain except for the subsidy ceiling, would ensure that all aid would have to be included and disclosed.

Today's negotiations are seen as crucial to the future of BS, now shorn of its warship capability

Call to scrap Companies Act formalities

End ritual meetings, says IoD

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The charade of meaningless meetings for private companies could end if many formalities and requirements under the Companies Act were scrapped, the Institute of Directors said yesterday.

At the same time, it said, protective measures could be built in to the Act.

The idea is to replace meetings with a written document, signed by shareholders.

The IoD said: "Hundreds of thousands of small companies are at present required to go through solemn rituals of annual meetings and special meetings to pass special and extraordinary resolutions when a simple signature could suffice with no risk to creditors."

The Institute's proposals were developed by a working party which included leading figures who are members of the Law Society, the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICA) of England and Wales and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA).

An adviser to the group was Dr Len Sealy, of Caius College, Cambridge, who is a specialist in company law. Among those on the working party was Mr Peter Holland, chairman of the Law Society's common law committee.

The proposals would also apply to wholly-owned subsidiaries of a larger company.

The main safeguard is that opting out of meetings would need to be agreed by

all shareholders. Otherwise normal procedures, which would continue to apply to public companies, would have to be followed.

A single shareholder should also have powers to revoke an action, it is suggested. Protection for creditors under the Companies Act would be retained.

The need for a unanimous resolution would impose a practical limit on the size of private company to which in practice the proposal would apply, the IoD suggests.

The IoD would also like to see the Government given the power to bring in other regulatory measures with the emphasis on unanimous consent of shareholders.



Clayton Yeutter: sees time running against the Reagan initiative for US leadership

Yeutter hint of new US
economics package

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan is preparing comprehensive new legislation to restore US leadership in the international economic arena.

Details of the programme were finalized at a White House meeting last week but the initiative will not be announced until the President's State of the Union message next month, according to Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative.

He said in an interview with *The Times* that Mr Reagan and his advisers see their political difficulties and rapidly diminishing time in office as blocks to the President's goal of leaving the world "a lasting economic legacy."

Mr Yeutter said that a trade war with Europe looms as a strong possibility with a December 31 being the decisive date.

He disclosed also that the United States and the Soviet Union continued to hold talks last week on economic relations but that Soviet membership of international institutions such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) remains far off.

The new programme and subsequent legislation will focus on trade, but with a broad emphasis encompassing international competitiveness at a time when global growth is deemed insufficient.

"We regard this as a major initiative by the Reagan administration during the President's final two years in office," Mr Yeutter said.

Without disclosing details, he said the programme is the result of six months' work by the President's economic policy council, led by Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary.

The programme, based on reports which have already been leaked, will encompass the areas of anti-trust, research and development, education, possible industrial incentives and grants, agriculture, corporate management and other trade-related subjects.

Mr Yeutter also said that continued US movement on the exchange rate front, including a possible agreement with West Germany after the January elections, should not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, he said the US and Europe are moving dangerously close to the December 31 deadline to resolve their dispute over the effects

No rush, says
Gatt after
8-week talks

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The new Uruguay round of trade negotiations, the eighth and most ambitious in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's history, has not had a propitious start.

Delegates from 30 main trading nations, meeting since October 27, failed to make the December 19 deadline, as scheduled at the Punta Del Este conference in September, so that negotiations proper could start early next year.

Instead, the trade negotiating committee will meet again on January 28, after two weeks of further discussions, in the hope of agreeing a precise programme.

"This is, after all, a four-year negotiation and it would be wrong to rush things now and perhaps get them wrong," said a Gatt spokesman Mr David Woods.

Considerable progress has been achieved on trade barriers and several countries were particularly disappointed at the interruption in the negotiations, feeling that agreement was within reach, he added.

on trade of the accessions of Spain and Portugal into the European Economic Community.

There is no solution in sight at, according to Mr Yeutter, who said it is up to Europe to make the next move.

The US will begin drawing up retaliatory measures, affecting as much as \$400 million (£283.7 million) in

trade if the two sides fail to reach agreement by the deadline.

Mr Yeutter indicated that there would be no extension of the deadline as requested by the EEC but other officials said the administration will heed Europe's request.

"The US is not interested in a divisive fight with Europe when it is trying to recover from the Iran scandal. For this reason, I think you will see additional negotiations in January," a high-level official said.

Separately, Administration sources said that the idea behind Mr Reagan's new initiative grew out of a meeting between Mr Yeutter and Mr William Brock, the US Labour Secretary.

At a White House lunch, the two cabinet officers agreed it was imperative in the second term to focus on two issues — the record US budget deficit and competitiveness as measured by faltering US trade and huge global imbalances.

In the discussions with the Soviet Union last week, Russian officials explored the idea with the Administration of becoming members of GATT.

But Mr Yeutter said that the reforms the Soviet Union must take to qualify for GATT membership are so extensive that it will take years.

He declined to comment on a parallel effort by the Soviet Union to achieve membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

A Soviet delegation held high-level discussions with US Treasury officials on this proposal but the Reagan administration, fearing a backlash from the conservative political community, has not taken a public position.

OECD
joins in
talk of
tax cuts

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent
The Chancellor's attempt to play down expectations of tax cuts has failed to convince the forecasters. There is virtual unanimity among City and other forecasters that there will be a cut in the basic rate of income tax of 2p or more in the Budget.

Even the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, which is normally highly cautious in its economic policy predictions, assumed income tax cuts for Britain in its December *Economic Outlook*.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said in the Commons last Thursday: "I doubt if there will be much scope for reductions in taxation in next year's Budget."

This remark, which few people have interpreted literally, was accompanied by the comment: "A pound used in additional expenditure is a pound which is not available for reductions of taxation unless borrowing increases. And I have categorically ruled out higher borrowing."

However, the Treasury's own work suggests Mr Lawson's comment is misleading.

An increase in public spending raises the level of economic activity and incomes. It generates powerful feedback effects on Exchequer revenues.



Nigel Lawson: likes to leave some surprises

Simulations in *Government Economic Service Working Paper No. 90* suggest that a £1 billion increase in public spending boosts the public sector borrowing requirement by only £1.1 billion in the first year.

In other words, nearly 50p of every pound in additional expenditure can be used again. The story does not end here. A cut in income tax also generates feedback effects, most directly through higher indirect tax receipts.

It was significant that Mr Lawson chose not to damp down expectations when these were referring to the possibility of a tax cut of 1p or possibly 2p in the pound. But when City economists began to talk of a cut of 3p or more, the Chancellor reacted. Chancellors, and Mr Lawson is no exception, like to leave some surprises for their Budgets.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



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Unit Group makes running for Third Market honours

Unit Group is running

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The level of investor interest, however, is the

Isabel Unsworth
The author is a member of
the small companies unit
at Phillips & Drew

From David Watts

The Japanese authorities have approached the market with extreme caution and its

Balance of payments will temper rally

There are two reasons for this. Firstly, there are wide margins of error inherent in

investing heavily overseas. But the outflow has continued and has been at record levels in the past two years.

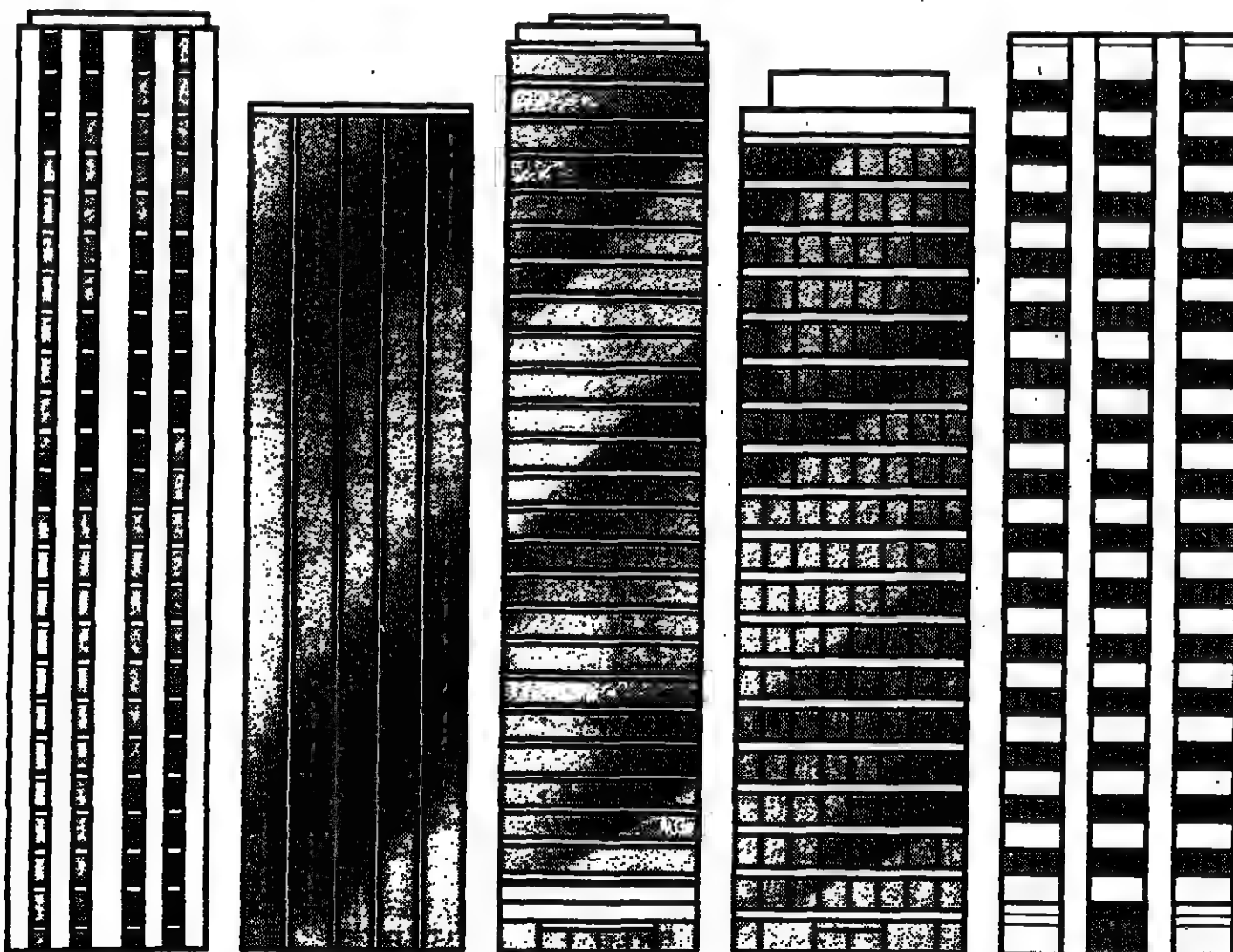
At present, confidence is low. It has been unsettled by speculation about a general election. The position is improving because the Government is edging ahead in most opinion

George Hodgson
The author is chief economist
at Citicorp Scrimgeour
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 1. Excludes 10c dividend

100

Chancery Division

Pension fund surplus cannot be removed by new owners

In re Courage Pension Schemes

Ryan and Others v Imperial Brewery & Leisure Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Millett

[Judgment December 10]

Proposals by Hanson Trust plc designed to remove, for its own benefit or for the benefit of other employees in other companies in the Hanson Group, all but £10 million of the surplus of £80 million in three pension schemes intended for the benefit of employees of Imperial Brewery & Leisure Ltd (IBL) were disallowed by Mr Justice Millett in the Chancery Division.

The Lordship held that the committee of management of the schemes were not bound to concur in executing the proposed deed amending the trust deeds or rules. The proposed amendments, as presently drafted, would have the effect of removing the surplus of £80 million from the schemes.

His Lordship so held on an originating summons taken out by the plaintiffs, Bernard Joseph Ryan and others, the committee of management of the pension schemes, against IBL, Graham Horsford Griffin, a member of the Courage Staff Pension Scheme, and Imperial Group Pension Trust Ltd and Imperial Group Pension Investment Ltd, the custodian trustees.

Mr Edward Nugge, QC and Mr Nicholas Warren, for the plaintiffs, Mr Nigel Ingalls-Jones, QC and Mr Geoffrey Topham, for IBL, Mr Michael Hart for Mr Griffin, Mr Geoffrey Topham for the custodian trustee companies.

MR JUSTICE MILLETT said that in April 1986, Hanson Trust plc acquired Imperial Group plc, one of whose subsidiaries was IBL.

After sale of part of IBL's undertaking, IBL and its remaining subsidiaries now consisted of only three companies, described as the Courage Group of companies.

In September, Hanson agreed to sell IBL to an Australian company, Elders Ltd, for approximately £1.4 billion. The sale became unconditional on November 14 and was completed on November 19.

IBL operated three contributory pension schemes for employees in the group, each governed by its own trust deed and rules. The Courage Retail Managers Scheme, established in 1956 by Barclay Perkins & Co Ltd for managers of off-licences, received new rules in 1963 when IBL was substituted as "the company" for purposes of the scheme.

The Courage Staff Pension Scheme and the Courage Employees Pension Scheme, originally non-contributory, were established by IBL for employees in IBL and its associated companies.

The plaintiffs constituted the committee of management for all three schemes, whose assets totalled about £252 million, their estimated surplus of assets

over liabilities being about £80 million.

In February 1986 the committee inserted a new clause, whose effect was to close each scheme to new entrants, in order to protect the surplus, particularly the surplus against what was described as "a predator".

Without such action other companies in the Hanson Group would have become "associated companies" entitled to participate in funds built up by IBL over many years.

Hanson made no secret of its desire to remove for its own benefit or for the benefit of employees of companies remaining in the Hanson Group, most of the £80 million surplus.

Despite the sale of IBL to Elders, Hanson proposed that the pension schemes should remain with Hanson, which would be substituted as "the company" for purposes of the schemes.

When explained, those proposals aroused concern among the committee members, since the effect would be to exclude employees from benefit, although they continued to be employed by the same employer, and would leave pensioners in schemes operated by Hanson, a company with which they had no or only the most tenuous connection.

After legal advice the committee issued their originating summons on November 5, asking whether they were (a) at liberty or (b) bound to execute the proposed amending trust deeds.

Hanson contended that they were so bound and had no discretion in the matter, and it had executed interim schemes, allowing for new entrants to be added, the new deeds lacking only execution by the committee.

It was clear, and common ground, that the Courage Retail Managers Pension Scheme, vested the power to amend the rules in the committee, with the consent of the participating companies, and it followed, as was conceded, that the committee had a full discretion, that the amending deed would have no effect until executed by the committee, and that its validity as at the date when so executed.

The relevant clause in the other two schemes was, in his Lordship's view, ambiguous but his Lordship had no doubt that its construction was that the committee was required, not as Mr Ingalls-Jones contended, to concur "in the execution of" the amending deed by the company, but to concur "in executing" the amending deed itself, the word "concur" denoting an act of voluntary agreement.

To exclude the committee's discretion would not only deny any effective protection to members, but would make nonsense of the careful allocation of powers found elsewhere in the trust deed and rules.

But the committee were only entitled to join in executing the proposed amending deeds if the

proposed amendments were within the power to amend and could properly be made.

They must not infringe the provisions to the rule-amending power, particularly the express prohibition against altering the scheme's "main purpose", namely the provision of pensions on retirement at a specified age for members. Such a power was given for the purpose of promoting not altering the scheme.

Whenever possible the deed's provisions should be construed so as to give reasonable and practical effect to the scheme, bearing in mind that it had to operate against a constantly changing commercial background, and yet the scheme ended not for employees of a single company, but for those of a group of companies.

Even a "main purpose" might be changed by degrees, as was demonstrated by *Thellusson v Whiston* (1807) 2 Ch 1, concerned with Hurlingham Club whose initial object, to provide a ground for pigeon shooting, changed later to a ground for polo and other sports.

It was a novel and startling proposition that a company, and its associated companies, could be sold and continue to employ substantially its whole workforce, for whose benefit the scheme was established, and yet the scheme itself be excluded from the sale.

His Lordship's first reaction, namely that substituting one company for another as principal company for the scheme was necessary outside the rule-amending power, proved, however, to be too sweeping a conclusion.

After examining the terms of the three schemes, his Lordship said there was a limited right to substitute another company for IBL, but only if the company was being wound up for reconstruction or amalgamation, and the only company that could be substituted was the reconstructed or amalgamated company.

Sale of an associated company out of the group would cause a partial dissolution of the scheme, but unless another company was first substituted, the sale of IBL itself would not affect the schemes at all.

It was obviously desirable that some provision for substitution should be included in a group scheme; it would be unfortunate if the whole scheme had to be wound up merely because, on a group reconstruction, the principal company was put into liquidation.

A pension scheme was established, not for a particular company, but for those employed in a commercial undertaking, and provision could properly be made for the scheme to continue for their benefit, if, on reconstruction, the undertaking was transferred from one company to another within the group, and if it remained identifiably the same.

Such provisions could properly be said to promote the main purpose, and not to alter it.

That, however, was not the present case at all; the Courage Group had not been reconstructed, but sold.

The purpose of the proposed substitution of Hanson for IBL was not to preserve the schemes in existence for the benefit of those employed in the undertaking, but was to prevent that from happening, and to bring about an unnecessary dissolution of the schemes which would not otherwise occur.

The need for some provision to be made for substitution showed that the identity of "the company" was not of the essence or part of the "main purpose" of the schemes.

It did not follow that an unlimited power of substitution could be validly introduced, or that any company could properly be substituted in any circumstances and for any purpose.

The simple fact was that Hanson did not employ and never had employed any of the employees whose benefit the schemes were established.

The circumstances must be such that substitution was necessary or at least expedient in order to preserve the scheme for those for whose benefit it was established, and the substituted company must be recognizably the successor to the business and workforce of the company for which it was to be substituted.

It was not enough that it was a member of the same group, or the holding company of the group. The proposed substitution was *ultra vires*.

His Lordship also held that whether or not the closure of the schemes in February 1986 to new entrants was or was not

intended to be irrevocable, the true question was whether the closure of any scheme could be entrenched against a future exercise of a power to amend.

There was no need for such entrenchment, the company being sufficiently protected by being a necessary party to amendments to re-open it, and the members of a closed scheme being likewise similarly protected, by the fact that the committee was a necessary party to any amendment.

The committee's powers were fiduciary, and present members could not deprive their successors of the right to exercise the power of amendment set in *In re Williams Trust Deeds* ([1964] Ch 219).

Whether or not the closure could have been made proof against future re-opening, that had not been done, and the court would declare that the committee were at liberty, but (b) not bound to execute any deed amending the trust deeds or rules for the purpose of re-opening the schemes to new members.

Hanson's proposals, which his Lordship had disallowed, were designed to remove for its own benefit, or for the benefit of employees in other Hanson Group companies, all but £10 million of the surplus, thus reducing or extinguishing the employees' present expectation of continued suspension of contributions.

They thus raised the wider and controversial issue of whether surpluses should be regarded as available to the employer or as belonging wholly or partly to the members.

The point did not arise directly for decision, but it was right to explain why his Lordship had not based his decision

on the ground that Hanson's proposals would deprive the employees of an accrued legal right.

The surpluses arose from what, with hindsight, could be seen as past over-funding, so that *prima facie*, if reasonable and not used to increase benefits, they ought to be returned to those who contributed them.

In a contributory scheme that might be thought to be in proportion to the respective contributions of employees and employer but that was not necessarily or always the case.

In the present instance the employees had no right to a "contributions holiday", and any surplus was due to past over-funding by the employer alone.

It would, however, only be in rare cases that the employer would have any legal right to repayment of any part of the surplus, since regulations were expected shortly to be made under section 64 of the Social Security Act 1973, as amended, under which any repayment would normally require co-operation between employer and trustees or committee of management.

The members, while having no legal right to participate in the surplus, objected to being transferred compulsorily to a new scheme of which they knew nothing except that it had a relatively small surplus, and were entitled to have their objections dealt with by discussion and negotiation, and not to be irrevocably parted from the surplus by the unilateral decision of a take-over bidder.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Nabarro Nathanson; Lovell White & King; Nabarro Nathanson.

Operative cause in obtaining by deception

Regina v King

Regina v Stockwell

Before Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice Saville

[Judgment November 28]

When considering offences of obtaining property by deception the question to be asked in each case was whether the deception was an operative cause of the obtaining of the property. That question fell to be answered as a question of fact by the jury applying their commonsense.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing appeals by David King and James Stockwell against their convictions on February 19, 1986 at Southampton Crown Court (Judge Stock, QC and jury) of attempting to obtain property by deception. They were each fined £150, with 30 days' imprisonment in default.

Mr Nigel Cockburn, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants; Mr Keith Cutler for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, in a judgment of the court, said that the appellants went to the house of Mrs Mitchell, a widow aged 62. They told her (falsely) that they were from a firm of tree surgeons (that she knew of) and said that the roots of a sycamore tree in her garden were growing into the gas main and could cause thousands of pounds of damage. They said it would cost £150 to fell the tree. Mrs Mitchell agreed to pay.

They then looked at other trees and told her that three others should also be felled to avoid damage. They said that to remove the four trees would cost about £500.

When Mrs Mitchell said she would telephone her brother, one of the appellants said they would do the work for £470 if paid in cash.

Mrs Mitchell went to draw money from two building society accounts. She withdrew some from one and was withdrawing more from the other when the cashier noticed that she seemed very distressed.

Following a conversation, the police were informed. Police officers went to Mrs Mitchell's house and found the appellants there. They were arrested.

In support of the appeal against conviction, counsel for the appellants argued that the judge erred in rejecting a motion made at the outset of the trial to quash the indictment, or alternatively the submission that there was no case to answer.

It was argued that since *R v Lewis* (Somerset Assizes, January 1922, reported in a footnote in *Russell on Crime*, volume 12th edition 1986, note 66) it had been recognized generally that conduct of the kind com-

plained of in the present case did not constitute the criminal offence of obtaining property by false pretences or by deception because, as a matter of causation, the relevant property was obtained by reason of the work carried out rather than by reason of any deception.

In *R v Lewis* a schoolmistress obtained a teacher's certificate by falsely stating that she possessed a teacher's certificate. She was held to be guilty of obtaining her salary by false pretences on the ground that she was paid because of the services she rendered and not because of the false representation.

It was to be observed, however, that Professor Glanville Williams in his *Textbook of Criminal Law* at p 513 said: "Yet Lewis would not have got the job, and consequently her salary, if it had not been for pretence. Her object in making the pretence was to get the salary. Assuming, as is likely, that the employer would not have made her any payment of salary if he had not been operating on his mind, there was certainly a causal connection between the lie and the obtaining of salary. Why should it not be a causal connection in law?"

Their Lordships had given careful consideration to the argument based on causation or remoteness and had taken account of the fact that some support for the appellants' argument might be provided by the writings of a number of distinguished academic lawyers.

Nevertheless their Lordships had come to the conclusion that on the facts of the present case the argument was fallacious.

In their view the question in each case was whether the deception was an operative cause of the obtaining of the property. The question fell to be answered as a question of fact by the jury applying their commonsense.

That approach was consistent with the decision in *R v Martin* (1867) LR 1 CCR 56, 60 where Chief Justice Bovill said: "What is the test? Surely this, that there must be a direct connection between the pretence and the delivery—that there must be a continuing pretence. Whether there is such a connection or not is a question for the jury." That decision was referred to with approval in *R v Forsyth* (1913) 8 Cr App R 214.

In the present case there was ample evidence upon which the jury could come to the conclusion that the appellants' deception was an operative cause of the obtaining of the property. The appellants were rightly convicted.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Southampton.

Agency status must be disclosed

Gimblett v McGlashan

Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Russell

[Judgment December 5]

An air travel agent relying on the exemption from holding a licence under the Civil Aviation (Air Travel Organisations Licensing) Regulations (SI 1972 No 223) by reason of his principal being the holder of a licence was required by regulation 2 to disclose his status as agent in a transaction making flight accommodation available.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor, Richard Jeremy Gimblett, against the decision by the Wells Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate of an information against Andrea McGlashan alleging a contravention of regulation 2(1) of the 1972 Regulations.

The 1972 Regulations provide: "(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and (3) this regulation no person shall, in the United Kingdom—(a) make available, as a principal or an

agent accommodation for the carriage of persons on flights by aircraft (whether or not registered in the United Kingdom) in any part of the world; or (b) hold himself out as a person who, either as a principal or agent, or without disclosing his capacity, may make such accommodation available unless—

“(i) he holds a licence authorizing him to do so and the terms of the licence are contained in so far as they relate to the provision of that accommodation.

“(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) of this regulation shall require a person to hold a licence by reason only of the fact that he—

“(a) makes available, or holds himself out as a person who may make available, such accommodation as agent acting on behalf and with the authority of—

“(i) the holder of a licence.

Mr Bernard Livesey for the prosecutor; Mr Adrian Selter for the defendant.

which the defendant was a director, to disclose the existence of their agency and the identity of their principal.

The regulations were not as felicitously drafted as they might have been. The addition of the words "disclosed" before the word "agent" in regulation 2(1)(b) would not have been misplaced.

There must be significance in the words "or without disclosing his capacity" in regulation 2(1)(b), and to give any meaning at all to those words it was necessary to imply the words "a disclosed" before the word "agent" in regulation 2(1)(b).

That seemed to be no point in the words "acting on behalf of and with the authority of" which immediately followed the word "agent" unless disclosure was contemplated and required.

Consequently the magistrate erred in acquitting the defendant on the information preferred against her and the appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice May agreed. Solicitors: Mr K. G. Harries; Anthony Feldman & Co.

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ON ENTRY

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

CHOICE

insistent. The commentary speaks of three of the five giants conjured up by Beveridge in his report on social insurance — squalor, want and idleness — still not having been vanquished. But little attempt is made to follow up the thought offered by *Picture Post*'s Tom Hopkinson that the general desire in the country was for the people's war to be followed by a people's society. Perhaps if I expected more of the closing chapters of *A People's War* than the films said it is their duty to deliver. If I am gully of this, it is probably because, during the past seven weeks, the series as a whole set a high standard below which it never dropped. My one reserva-

tion about it still stands, however. As it offered so many first-rate, first-hand accounts of wartime experiences, it was a mistake to alternate them with Mass Observation reports spoken by actors.

● **The Oldest Goose** in the Bushes (BBC2, 9.30pm), is a hybrid of pantomime folk, is a by-and-by-mis affair. Barry Davis has set his play in an Oldham which is shown to be sadly deficient in Christmas cheer. The town band is playing *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* sure enough, but the drummer welcomes a new arrival with four comments about the town being full of glue sniffers and West Indian hair-do's. Where the play hits is in its understanding of the disoriented way that some theatre folk may socially as-

lion miles away from London, behave when there is nowhere for them to go but down. Where it misfires is in its attempt to develop the main point that I assume it is trying to make. Oliver has said that when he builds up a characterization, he begins with the feet. The retired panto goose in Barry Davis's play (he is very well played by Jimmy Jewell), also starts at the feet, and he strikes a responsive chord in the earnest young ASM who thinks that, when trying to get at the theatrical truth of things, it is the essential goodness that counts. It is, rejoins the ASM, the goodness that counts, being a goose unless you are your own goose. Sadly, this meeting of minds is untidily explored.

Peter Davalle



Tracey Ullman as Ethel in Daisy Ashford's *The Young Visitors* (C4, 8.30pm)

BBC1

- 6.00** **CeeFax.** AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.30** **News headlines** followed by **The Flintstones.** (r) **6.55** **Weather.**
- 7.00** **Breakfast Time** with **Frank Bough** and **Sally Magnusson.** **National and international news.** 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; **regional news and travel bulletins** at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; **weather** at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.40** **Watchdog.** **Consumer affairs** presented by **Lynn Fauds** **Wood** and **John Stanton.** **5.55** **Regional news** and **weather.**
- 9.00** **News and weather.** **9.55** **Yogi Berra.** **Competition.** (r) **9.10** **Play Chess.** **William Hartston** presents the first of a **new daily series** **9.20** **Wacky Races.** (r) **9.30** **Alfie** in **Wonderland.** **Cartoon.** **Competition.** including the **voice of Nigel Hawthorne** as **Lewis Carroll.** (r)
- 10.00** **News and weather.** **10.05** **Neighbours.** (r) **10.25** **Children's BBC.** **Andy Crane** with **promenade edition** and **birthday greetings.** **10.30** **Play School.** **10.50** **Willo the Wisp.** (r)
- 10.55** **Five to Eleven.** **Joanna Lumley** with a **thought for the day.** **11.00** **News and weather.** **11.05** **The Dukes of Hazzard.** **Boss Hogg** tries to **defraud his late uncle's estate** and **encounters the Sheriff.**
- 11.15** **Junior Kick Start.** **The first** of **three heats** for the **Norwich Union trophy.** **12.20** **A Song For Christmas.** **The first** of **three programmes** to **find this year's Star For Christmas.** **The guest** is **Aled Jones.** **12.55** **Regional news** and **weather.** **One O'Clock News** presented by **Maryn Lewis.** **Weather.** **1.00** **News.** **1.05** **Shane** **have an argument.** **1.50** **Bertha.** (r)
- 2.05** **One Million Years BC (1986)** starring **Quaker Welch** and **Richard O'Connell.** **Adventure yarn** in which the **prey** **Miss Welch** competes

BBC 3

- 9.00** **Cee-fax:**
10.20 **The Week to the Lords.** A repeat of yesterday's programme of highlights of the week's proceedings in the House of Lords, presented by Christopher Jones.
- 11.00** **Songs of Praise.** Carols by candlelight from St. Paul's Cathedral. (r) (Cee-fax)
- 12.00** **Film: The Mark of Zorro** (1920) starring Douglas Fairbanks Senior. A swashbuckling sword setting in Mexico with Fairbanks as an ineffectual aristocrat by day and Zorro, the defender of the poor and the oppressed, by night. Rated by the BBFC as 12.
- 1.25** **See Hear! Christmas Special.** A repeat of yesterday's programme. (r)
- 2.15** **Film: Pigeon Post-Tell (1981)** An animated tale from Sweden about a kitten, shunned by his family, who is taken to a new home by a passing motorist.
- 3.40** **News, regional news and newsround.**
- 3.50** **Film: They Flew Alone** (1941) starring Anna Neagle and Robert Newton. The story of Amy Johnson and her husband Jim, aviators who were thrilled the world in the Thirties before their marriage turned sour.
- 5.30** **Sunday Detectives.** Two teams from the original 16 battle out the final of the quiz on Britain and the British. (r)
- 6.00** **No Limits.** The last programme in the series.
- 7.00** **Film: 1941 (1979)** starring Dan Aykroyd. A Steven Spielberg comedy about the panic when a Japanese submarine is seen off the coast of California six days before the attack on Pearl Harbor. In Los Angeles, the area's commanding officer is being harassed by nervous civilians, and is concerned by the eccentric behaviour of his troops.
- 8.00** **Cool R! Comedian Phil Cool** with the last programme of his series.
- 9.30** **The Oldest Goose in the Business.** A play by Barry Davis, who originally wrote the work as a short story for radio, about a crisis facing a pantomime seasoner in Oldham. The audience rehearsals have begun but there is no Mother Goose, and in the first instance, the assistant stage manager is sent to find a replacement. The luck he bumps into a crotch comedian with a suitable set of feathers. Starring Jimmy Jewel and John Skitt.
- 10.30** **The American Film Institute tribute to Billy Wilder** introduced by Jack Lemon. With contributions from, among others, Fred MacMurray, Audrey Hepburn, and Katharine Hepburn, the programme heralds a season of Wilder films beginning with *The Seven Year Itch*, to be seen on Christmas Eve.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.15** **TV-am:** Good Morning Britain presented by Ann Diamond and Mike Morris. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; exercises at 6.55; cartoon at 7.25; pop music at 7.55; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. Wacaday with Timmy Mallett at 9.00.
- 9.25** **Thames** news headlines followed by *The Leopards of Kora*. Two leopard cubs, born in captivity, are taken to a rehabilitation project at the Kora Game Reserve, Kenya.
- 10.20** **Film:** *The Toughest Man in the World* (1984) starring Mr T. A made-for-television yarn about a tough ex-marine who enters a strong man competition in order to raise money for a youth centre for troubled youngsters. Directed by Dick Lowry. 11.55 *Silent Night* with Jose Carreras. Songs for the festive season recorded in the chapel of Oberndorf, a village in Austria.
- 12.30** **Baby and Co.** Lesley Judd and Dr Miriam Stoppard discuss working mothers. (r)
- 1.00** **News** at ten with Leonard Parkin 1.20 **Thames** news.
- 1.30** **Film:** *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* (1976) starring Peter Sellers, Herbert Lorn, and Leonard Rossiter. Dreyfus escapes from the asylum where the antics of Clouseau had sent him, and begins to build a world-wide criminal network dedicated to the extermination of the bumbling detective. Directed by Blake Edwards. (Crackle) 3.25 **Film:** *Peter and the Wolf* (1946) An animated Walt Disney adventure.
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CHANNEL

- ## CHANNEL 4
- 2.30** *Film: Danceson* (1985) starring Susanah York. A drama made by the Children's Film Unit about an 11-year-old boy, Nick, who is disturbed by his parents buying a trip to the United States at the same time as his family's move to a new house. Unhappy at school, his only friend is the psychiatrist who is on his case when social service events threaten to destroy him. Directed by Colin Finbow.
- 4.00** *Eric Brister - 'Arrogant, intelligent, brilliant' - profile of the international stars, player, seen in action at the board and at the pub/club he owns. (I)*
- 4.30** *Film: "Spangled Rhythm" (1942) starring Betty Hutton and Eddie Bracken. Comedy musical about a film studio telephone's efforts to prevent a young man from leaving his father is just the gate-keeper of the studios, instead, as he boasted to his son, Head of the Studio. With a host of performers starting to walk-on parts, including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Alan Ladd, and Veronica Lake. Directed by George Marshall.*
- 6.25** *Upstairs in the Garden. An animated version of James Thurber's battle of the sexes story.*
- 6.30** *Talking to Writers. Hermione Cole in conversation with Ruth Gorman, the author whose first novel was published in 1935 on the recommendation of Graham Greene.*
- 7.00** *Close 4 News with Peter Sissons and Christabel King includes an interview with Pakistani President Zia by Trevor McDonald. Weather.*
- 8.00** *Christmas. Sheila has last come to terms with her rape and she and Bobby decide to throw a Christmas party, and all the neighbours accept; the Cornhills leave their mortgage to the bank that they have respite from their money troubles; and Damon has gone off Gall who doesn't seem to know when enough is enough.*
- 8.30** *Film: Young Americans (1984) starring Tracey Ullman. A made-for-television tale of a nine-year-old's vision of grown up romance and social class, starring Daisy and Tracey Ullman in 1850. With Kenny Ireland, Carina Radford, and John Harding.*
- 10.15** *A People's War. This final programme of the series about the Home Front during the Second World War examines the hopes and dreams that the people had of peace. (Oracle)*
- 11.15** *Film: Werewolf: The Undying. Girl Zeno. A film made by 11- to 15-year-old girls about agony aunts. They then investigate the world of racism in east London. The News.*
- International dispute, and pirate radio workers. Ends at*

VARIATIONS

- [illegible]



Devin Stanfield and Patrick Troughton in episode one of John Masefield's *The Box of Delights* (BBC1, 5.00pm)



Mike Yarwood as President Reagan in jubilant mood: The Yarwood Chat Show, on ITV at 8.00pm

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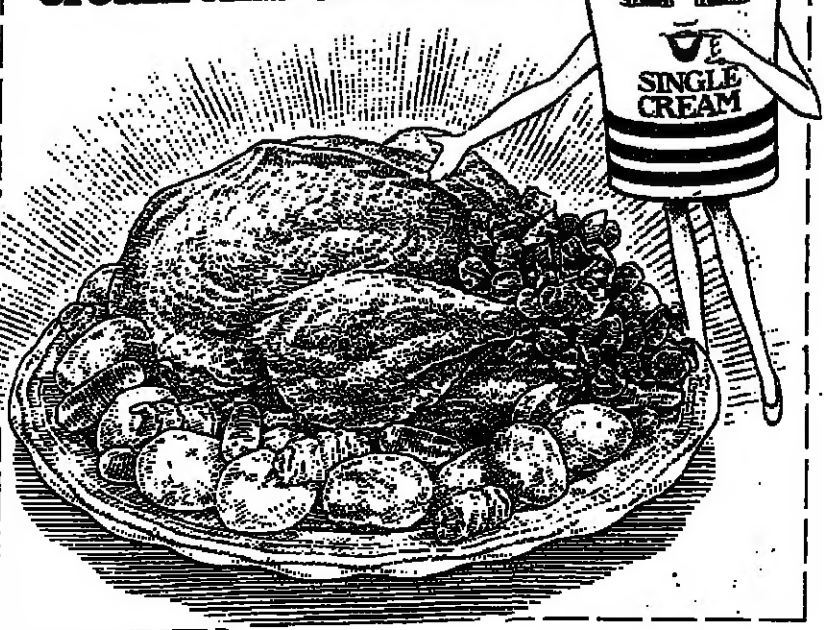
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Use to baste turkey or chicken (whole or portions) for the last ½ hour of cooking time to produce a wonderful flavour and truly golden colour. You'll use this crowning glory with every meat

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Radio 1

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
News on the half-hour from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. then at 10:00 and 12:00 midnight.
5:30 a.m. Adrian John 7.00 Mike Smith's Breakfast Show (incl. at 11:32 Madonna) 12:30 Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson) 12:45 Gary Davies 3.00 Dave Lee Travis 5:30 Newsbeat (Ian Parkinson) 6:45 Bruno Brookes 7:30 Janice Long 10:00-12:00 John Peel Festival 12:00-12:30 Newsbeat 8 & 2-4:00 a.m. As Radio 2 10:00 a.m. As Radio 1 12:00

As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF.

News on the hour. Headlines
5.30am, 6pm, 7.30, 8.30. Sports
Desk 1.05pm, 2.02, 3.02, 4.02,
5.05, 6.02, 6.45 (at 9pm) 7.55.
5.55pm. **Berry** 5.55-6.30 Ray
Moon 7.30 Derek **Jameson** 9.30
Ken Bruce 11.00 Jimmy **Youn**
1.05pm David **Jacobs** 2.00 Gloria
Humphreys joins the crowd at
4.00pm. **Johnnie Walker** 5.05 John
Dunn 7.00 Alan **Dell** with Dances
Band **Deys** 8.30 Big Band Special
(BBC Big Band). With
Madeleine Bell 8.30 **Humphrey**
Lytton (Jazz on record) 10.00
Acker's Away (**Acker Bilk** and
Paramount Jazz Band) 10.30
Star Sound. Nick **Jackson** plays
country records from 11.00.
Brian Marston with Road
Midnight 1.00am **Charles Nove**

4.00 A Little Night Must

WORLD SERVICE

5.00 Newsweek (until 6.30) 7.00 News 7.09
Twenty-four Hours 7.30 Rumors of the Gay
and Dolls 8.00 News 8.09 Reflections 8.15
Sisters 8.20 News 8.29
8.50 Review of the British Press 8.55
Good Books 9.50 Financial News 10.00
9.50 News 10.01 A World in Edgepools 10.30
Art Beatbox 11.00 News 11.09 News
11.15 News 11.24 News 11.30 News
(until 11.30) 12.00 Radio Newsweek 12.15
Just a Minute 12.45 Sports Around the World
12.50 News 1.00 News 1.09 News 1.15
and Friends 2.00 Audio 2.24 Voyages of
Captain Cook 3.00 Radio Newsweek 3.15 A
World in Edgepools 3.45 Sports Around the
World 3.50 News 4.00 News 4.09 News
4.15 My Country in Mind 4.30 Sound of
Play Back 4.45 World Today 5.00 News
5.09 News 5.15 News 5.20 News 5.25
5.30 Twenty-four Hours 6.30 Sports
International 6.00 News 6.01 World Network
UK 6.05 News 6.10 News 6.15 News 6.20
Beatbox 10.00 News 10.09 World Today
10.25 Book Charts 10.30 Financial News
10.35 News 10.40 News 10.45 News 10.50
11.00 News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 My
Country in Mind 11.20 Beatbox 11.25 News
11.30 News 11.35 News 11.40 News 11.45
Radio Newsweek 12.30 Bing and Friends
1.00 News 1.01 Outcast 1.30 Story 1.45
My Country in Mind 2.00 World News 2.05
2.10 News 2.15 News 2.20 News 2.25
2.30 Sports International 2.30 News 3.00
News About Britain 3.15 World Today 3.30
3.45 News 3.50 News 3.55 News 4.00
Music of Weber (until 4.45) 5.45 World
Today. All times in GMT.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, 7.00 News
7.05 Morning Concert: Lars-Erik Larsson (Pastoral Suite Op 19: Stockholm Symphonietta, Linnéa Neus Wiener Landler, Op 1), and Diabelli (Wiener Tanz: both works played by Beate Jessica Enrieble of Vienna), Schubert (Impromptu in G flat, Op 90 No 3: Brendel, piano), Handel (Unser Tr Deum: Choir of Christ College Cathedral, Oxford/Academy of Ancient Music, conducted by Simon Preston), 8.00 News
8.05 Concert (continued): Bach (Orgelbüchlein Nos 1-5: 559-4: Jacob, organ), Franck (Quartet for cor anglais and string trio: Fret Concerino), Berwald (Sinfonia scandinavica in G major, 5.00 Records
9.05 This Week's Composer: C P E Bach, including Heinrich Cordt Concerto in F, Wo 43 No 1f Melante R1 Orchestra, with Bob van Asperen, harpsichord, Fantasia in E flat, Wo 81 No 3 (Gustav Leonhardt, clavichord), Quartet in A minor, Wo 83, Sinfonia in D major, Wo 85 (Rupert Kohn, harpsichord) and Solfeggietto in C minor, Wo 117, No 2 (Lechner, harpsichord)
10.00 Chopin: Paul Borkowicz's pianist includes the Scherzo No 4 in E, Op 54; and Mazurkas including the Flat minor, Op 24 No 4, and the sharp minor, Op 33 No 1. Also, Barcarole Op 60, and Nocturne in E major, Op 62 No 2.
0.40 Lutoslawski's Polish No 15, under the composer. Symphonic Variations, 1938; and Symphony No 1
1.15 Lindsay String Quartet: Haydn (Quartet in C, Op 20 No 3), and Beethoven (Piano Trio, Op 10 No 3)
12.05 BBC Philharmonic (under Bernhard Klee), with Steven de Groote (piano). Part one. Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2). 1.00 News
1.05 Concert (continued). Dvorak (Symphony No 7)
2.00 Music Weekly: with Miles Davis. Includes a conversation with Gian Carlo Menotti, and George Pratt on changing traditions of performing Handel's Messiah. (Messiah is broadcast on Radio 3 tonight at 7.20). Also John Lill on the performing of the Beethoven piano sonatas (i)
2.45 New Records: Garth Edmundson (Modern Records) on old chords: Vom Himmel hoch, played by Malcolm Archer, organ), Praetorius (Von Himmel hoch: Queen's passages laudavers: Choir of Westminster Cathedral/Pauley of instruments), Bloch (Hebraic rhapsody Schelomo: Harrell, cello/Amsterdam Concertgebouw), Distler (Fier Spielzeug, Op 15 no 1 : Hurford, organ), Britten (A Ceremony of Carols: Williams, harp, and Choir of Westminster Cathedral), Ireland (Legend: Parfitt, piano and LPO), Dutilleul (La nuit étoilée, Movement 1 - Lyons National Orchestra), Glazunov (Symphony No 7: Bamberg SO).
4.55 News
5.00 Interpretation on Record: Geoffrey Norwood illustrates the different approaches to the playing of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3 (i)
5.10 The Dancing Master: The Broadside Band play popular tunes from Britain and other countries in the publications of John Playford
6.30 Chopin music: Robert Gower's sonata Piano Whitlock's plays C minor on the organ in the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook
7.20 Handel: Messiah. The Shenton Choir and Orchestra (under Harry Christophers, with soloists Lynn Dawson, Catherine Denley, David James, Madsen Jones, Michael George, and Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet), Margaret Phillips (organ) and Jane Coe (cello). Interval rests at 8.15. Part two begins at 8.20, and part three at 8.25.
10.15 Jazz Today: Charles Fox presents Stan Sulzmann (saxophones) and John Taylor (piano)
11.00 Beethoven Piano Sonatas: John Lill plays the No 4 in E flat, Op 7 and the No 12 in A flat, Op 26. A recording of a recital given on October 14 at the Barbican in London.
11.57 News, 12.00 Closedown.

Radio 4

FRIDAY 4	
On long wave (s) Stereo on VHF	Play, The Latin Lover, by Christopher Dennis. With Lisa Bowerman, Judith Barker and Clara Kinzele in the cast. The story of the arrival of some Italian prisoners of war in wartime Chindam
5.55 Shipping 5.50 News Briefing: Weather 8.10 Farming Week 6.25 A Service of Welcome for the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle (s) 6.57 Weather	4.30 Kaleidoscope, a second chance to hear last Friday night's edition, which included comment on the various Alices on view in the Christmas shows, and the film Explorers.
7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 8.00 Today's news 7.20 Business news 7.25, 8.25, Sport 7.30 News Summary 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.55 Weather	5.00 PM News magazine 5.50 Shipping
8.45 After Henry, starring Prunella Scales, Joan Sanderson, Benjamin Whitely and Graham Cowper (r) 8.57 Weather; Travel	5.55 Weather
9.06 News 9.15 Start The Week with Richard Baker (s)	6.00 The Six O'Clock News: Financial Report.
10.00 News; Money Box. A focus on the financial problems of everyday life, presented by Louise Belling.	6.30 Quote...Unquote. The quotations game with a celebrity panel consisting of David Sless MP, Gemma O'Connor, Sheridan Morley and John Peel. In the chair: Nigel Rees (r) (s)
10.30 The Fidsays Sags. Another chance to hear some later episodes of the favourite series. The cast includes Stephanie Turner, William Marlowe and Philip Lowrie.	7.00 News
10.45 Wives of the Great Composers. How much influence did the wives of ten great composers have on their husbands' music? The presenter is Fritz Spiegl (a BBC World Service repeat)	7.05 The Archers
11.00 News; Travel: Down Your Way. Brian Johnson visits the National Theatre in London.	7.20 On Your Farm
11.45 Poetry Please! Listeners' requests. Presented by Tony Lindsay. Readers: Tim Pigott-Smith and Diana Bishop (s)	7.45 The Monday Play. The Napoleon of Notting Hill, by G K Chesterton. With Roger Hammond (as Chesterton), David Collings, Kim Wall, and Stephen Hatherley in the cast. (s)
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer affairs. With Susan Rae	9.45 Kaleidoscope. Tonight's edition of the arts magazine includes comment on the Cambridge Opera Handbook on La bohème. Also The Country Mile at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, and a preview by Gillian Reynolds of Christmas programmes on radio.
12.27 King Street Junior. A proposed Unit for immigrant children creates trouble for Mr Beeson, and temperatures rise. With Peter Davison and James Groux. (s) 12.55 Weather	10.15 A Book At Bedtime: My Uncle Sias, by H E Bates (1 of 3). Read by David Neal. 10.29 Weather
1.00 The World at One; News	10.30 The World Tonight
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Spring	11.15 The Financial World Tonight
2.00 News; Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes a feature about Rhinodjings High School in Oswesthwaite in Shropshire. And Patricia Hodge reads Pink May, a story by Elizabeth Bowen.	11.30 Music at Night: Ravel - Michel Sauts; Menu: Goose, played by Pittsburgh SO under Andre Pevnin.
3.00 News; The Afternoon	12.00 News; Weather 12.35 Shipping forecast
	VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel 1.55-2.00pm Listening corner: Quincy the Christmas Toy written and read by Tommy Steele (s) 5.50-5.55 PM (Continued)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF-90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; LBC: 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

SPORT

Cherry's protest ends in a booking

Hodge on way to Tottenham as Roberts leaves

Trevor Cherry, the Bradford City manager, is to demand an FA inquiry after he was booked and one of his players was sent off in yesterday's 2-1 defeat away to the second division leaders, Oldham.

The game was halted for two minutes after a scuffle broke out between the Oldham defender, Denis Irwin, and Bradford's Greg Abbott in the 71st minute with the home side holding on to a 2-1 lead.

As the two players rolled on the ground when Irwin retaliated after a tackle, Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, ran onto the pitch, and Cherry made animated protests from the touchline. After consulting a linesman the referee sent Abbott to the dressing room, then booked Cherry for continuing with his furious protests.

After the game, Cherry said: "I am very upset and I will be asking the FA for an inquiry. I have spoken to the linesman, and he admitted he did not know which Oldham player should also have been sent off. If my player had gone for a foul I wouldn't have bothered but I was told he was sent off for throwing a punch. It was ridiculous, and a lot of fans were shocked by the decision."

Royle said: "My player was badly fouled and I went on to the pitch because I wanted to get him away. I was surprised when his player was sent off and ours didn't follow."

Leeds hit for seven

Nicky Morgan scored three goals for Stoke City as they overran a Leeds United team weakened by suspensions, ending the match 7-2 winners.

Morgan was on the mark after five minutes and scored his second in the 34th minute as Stoke eased into a 5-0 half-time lead.

He completed his treble by slipping a shot past Merry Day.

Leeds fought back in the second half, and scored consolation goals through Ian Baird (50min), and John Sheridan (72min) with a penalty after the full back, Lee Dixon, was judged to have handled.

Leeds missed the influence of suspended Ian Snodin and John Stiles.

Derby victory moves them up

Derby County moved up to third place in the second division thanks to a fine first half performance in which striker Bobby Davison scored two goals in the 4-0 win over Grimsby.

Davison set up Derby's first goal for Gary Mickelwhite in the sixth minute, and Mickelwhite then returned the favour to enable Davison to drive in his 11th goal of the season and the 100th league goal of his career.

Davison scored again in the 45th minute, and set up Derby's fourth goal for Phil Gee in the 55th minute.

Steve Hodge, Aston Villa's England midfielder, will sign for Tottenham Hotspur today in a £650,000 deal 24 hours after the sale of the London club's Graham Roberts to Rangers for a fee of £450,000.

Tottenham's profitable weekend - they won 2-0 in the League at Chelsea on Saturday - reached a climax yesterday afternoon when David Platt, their manager, and Irving Scholar, the chairman, met their opposite numbers at Villa Park, Billy McNeill and Doug Ellis, to work out the details of the transfer which had been mooted for several weeks. The Roberts deal finally made it possible.

McNeill said: "Steve decided he wanted to leave and our policy is not to keep unhappy players. We have no immediate plans on how to spend the money and, for the time being, we'll juggle with the players we have."

"I have felt for some considerable time that I wasn't getting everything that he had to give."

More football, page 25

they would have to accept less for their discontented young player who cost £400,000 when he signed 16 months ago from Nottingham Forest.

Hodge, who is 24, has won 11 England caps in his troubled time at Villa Park. But he

was not accepted by the supporters after rocking the unsteady Villa boat of the former manager, Graham Turner, by expressing his disillusionment with the club. He did not play at Oxford United on Saturday because he was said to be unwell.

Signing Hodge will take Platt's outgoings to almost £2.2 million since he took over the manager's position at White Hart Lane in May.

Hodge's attacking flair should greatly enhance Tottenham's midfield while the return of Gary Stevens, who is expected back shortly in the first team after dislocating a shoulder, will replace the bite which Roberts temporarily gave them in that department.

Platt did not seem too disturbed by the loss of the rugged Roberts. "We'll learn to live without him. Someone suggested to him recently that Scottish football was going well, so he's gone to have a shot at it."

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His delight at having joined Rangers was shown when he was asked if he thought the resumption of his partnership with Terry Butcher might lead to that solid defensive duo turning out again for England.

"I hope so," he said, "but that's all in the future. All I'm thinking about is doing well for Rangers." Roberts' arrival at Ibrox may be said to complete the first phase of Graeme Souness's plan to make Rangers not only Scotland's but Britain's leading club. "Our first objective was to get it right at the back," said the player-manager. "That was highly important, and with a quality player like Roberts, who is resilient, tough and versatile, we must have achieved our first stage."

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Fly slip: Ian Botham trout-fishing

Foster can impress in the Test stakes

Neil Foster, the Essex seam bowler, has been included in the England side which meets the Prime Minister's XI in a limited-overs match at Canberra tomorrow. A sound performance with the ball might earn him an England recall for the fourth Test in Melbourne, starting on Boxing Day.

Also included in the tourists' side is Ian Botham, who will be playing his first game since damaging a rib muscle in the second Test at Perth early in the month.

The Canberra clash is traditionally a festive occasion prior to Christmas. But with Ian Botham making his comeback, it takes on a special importance.

Botham needs to show he has recovered sufficiently to bowl a new-ball spell. Today, he spent another 30 minutes in the indoor nets in Hobart and looked totally happy with a bat in his hands. But his bowling was again restricted to gentle medium pace.

Alan's experienced a bit of reaction when batting" said Mickey Stewart, the England manager. "But that was not unexpected after his workouts on Thursday and Friday."

"He was going to bowl the equivalent of five overs at a reasonable pace but it was thought best to ease back."

Botham's experience with the ball was missed during the drawn third Test at Adelaide. England played with only two front line seamers there, and extra pressure was put on the shoulders of DeFreitas, the 20-

year-old, who responded with some wayward bowling, littered with no-balls, in the first innings.

Stewart admitted that selection for the fourth Test would not be easy. "We are going into a bit of an unknown at Melbourne because no one seems sure how the pitch will play. We need to get the balance right," he said.

That could mean using only one spinner or looking for more experience in the pace department. Either way, Foster can stake a claim for a first Test appearance this winter by reproducing his good form in state matches (15 wickets in the last three games) at Canberra.

Bruce French, who lost his Test place behind the stumps to Jack Richards, is now making a good recovery from the chest virus which put him in hospital at Hobart. He has been included in the 12 for Tuesday's game and will play if fully fit.

Alan Border, the Australian captain, leads the Prime Minister's XI, and taking charge of a crop of fringe Test players. Most exciting is South Australian opener Glenn Bishop, a 26-year-old who may yet face England at international level this winter.

ENGLAND XI (captain): M W Gatting (captain), B C Bradman, C W J Athey, A J Lamb, D J Gower, I T Botham, P A J Fothergill, C J Richards, N A Foster, P H Edmunds, G R Dwyer, S N French.

AUS: Alan Border (captain), A A Shepp, R L Brown, M G R Matthews, A B Herschell, T M Moody, S P O'Donnell, J D Siddons, D Tiedeman, M D Veale, M H Whalley.

John Woodcock, page 26

'Put customers first'

Britain's six national sports centres should concentrate on either excellence or mass participation but not both, according to a report published yesterday. The report, commissioned by the Sports Council earlier in the year, examined management and marketing requirements of the centres.

Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations are that greater emphasis should be placed on the needs and wants of the customers, that the management of the centres

should be re-organized, and that substantial investment should be made in the centres. The full council will formally consider the report on March 30.

John Wheatley, the Sports Council's director-general, commented: "This report is the final stage of our three-year review of the centres. It contains some very interesting and exciting ideas and will provide an invaluable aid to us in coming to decisions on how we should develop our centres."

The changes apply to both the senior Group C and the smaller Group C2 classes in the world championship. The size of engines will remain unlimited, but fuel allowances will be reduced steadily over the period to cut power and speed.

1987 CALENDAR: March 22: Japan, South, sprint, March 28: Japan, sprint, April 12: Monza, Italy, 1,000 km, April 20: Valencia, Spain, sprint, May 17: Silverstone, Britain, 1,000 km, May 27: La Motte Tardieu, France, sprint, June 13: Le Mans 24 Hours, France, July 19 or 26: Brands Hatch, Britain, 1,000 km, August 28